Ryotaro Iwanaga
1
PUMPKIN SCISSORS

Pumpkin Scissors

Imperial Army State
Section III

by
Ryotaro Iwanaga

Translated and adapted by
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Hello, everyone!

This is Sergeant Major Lily Stecchin.

I have a message from the author. It reads...

"This book does not contain and is not based on historical facts. Please also note that standard military facts and concepts do not apply, either."

He's being kind of evasive, isn't he?

I wish I would make more appearances along with Merc...

What? Merc? What are you doing here?

Noooo, Merc!
(The truth will be revealed in volume 2.)

Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

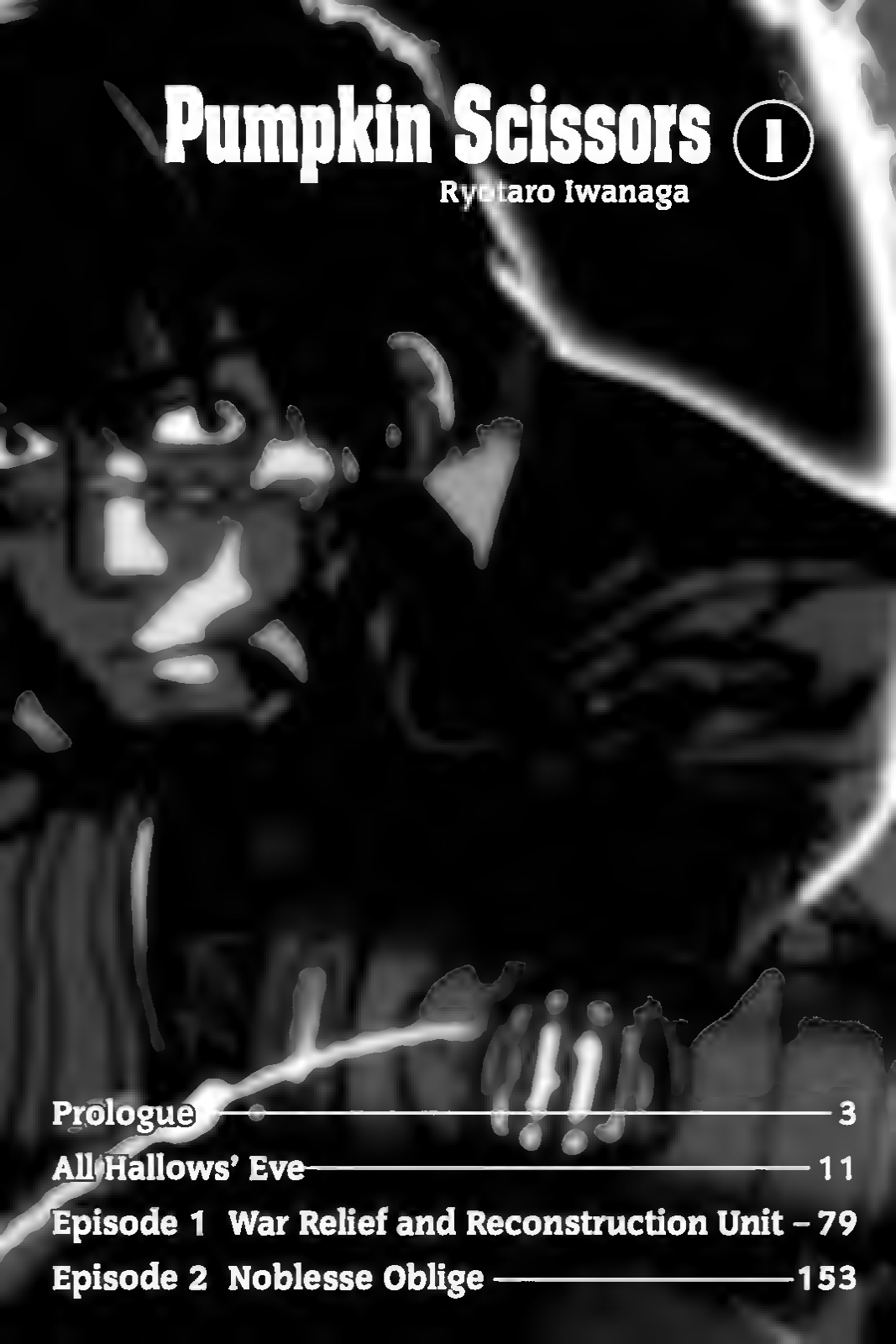
Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Pumpkin Scissors 1

Ryotaro Iwanaga



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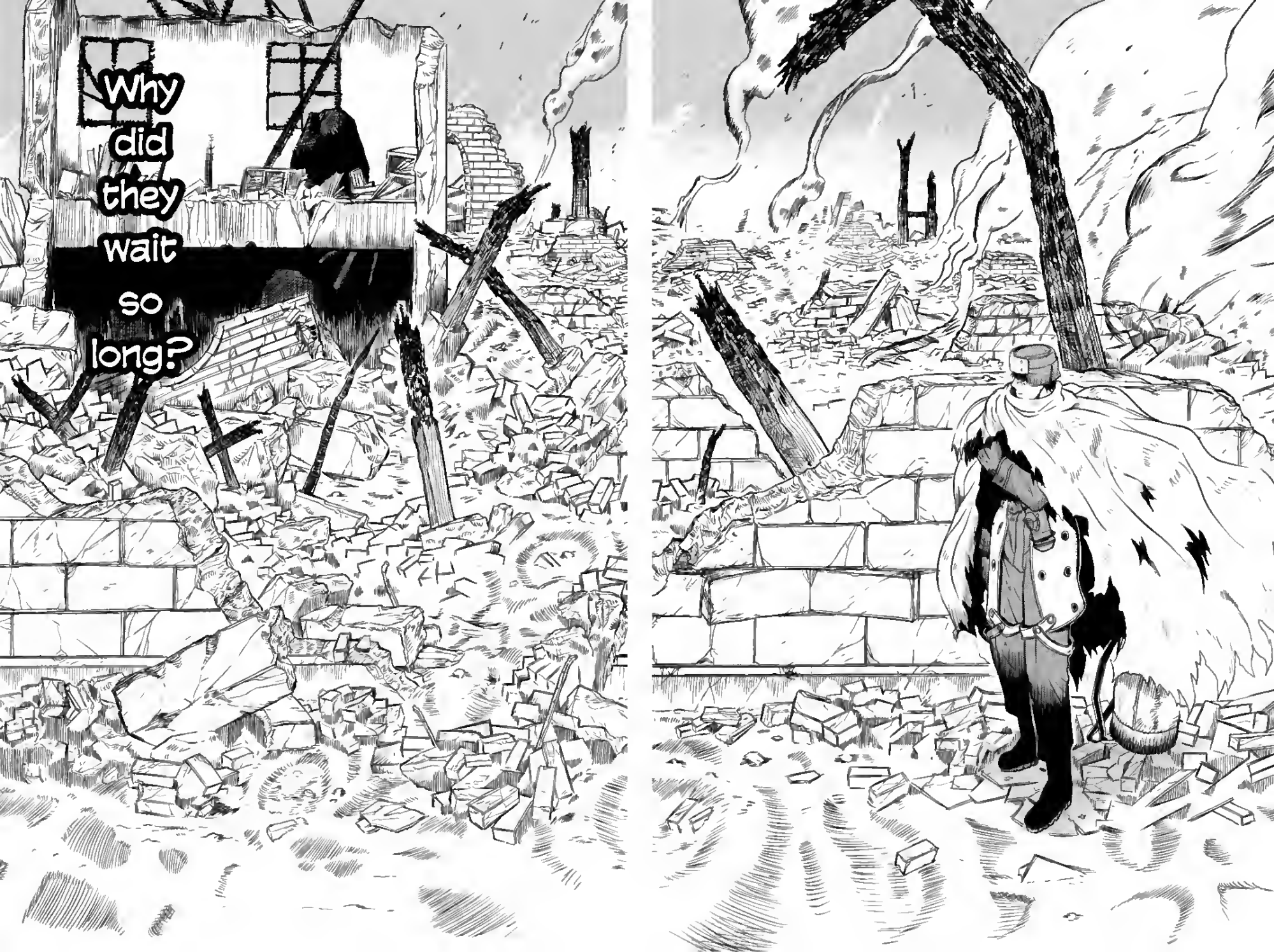
There is no war,
yet peace has not
graced the land...
This story is about
the stage in between...

Imperial Central First Military Academy 62nd Graduation Ceremony
This long war must be finished by your youthful vigor-
P...
President!
The Emperor...
HUFF
You!!
We're in the middle of the ceremony!
HUFF HUFF
MURMUR MURMUR

Five days later, in a remote region of the Empire...

What!? We didn't receive any warning...
MUMMUR
MUMMUR
MUMMUR
Wait a minute!
I'm just the messenger...
I need more information!
Why...
STAGGER
ヨロ・・・
Just like that...
Cease fire...?

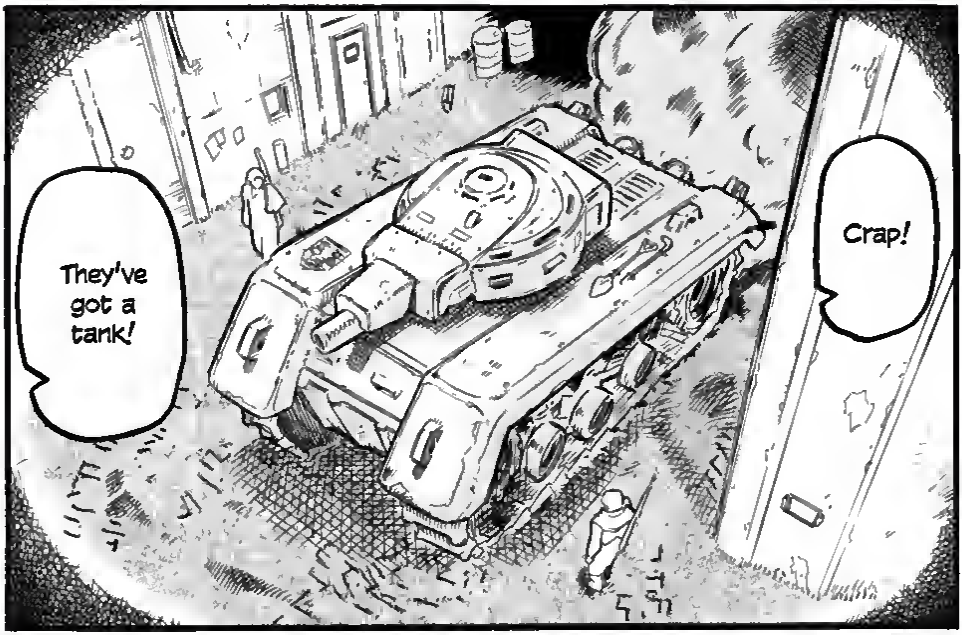

Why did they wait so long?

ヒュウウウウ
WHOOOSH
バサ
FLAP
バサ
FLAP
バサ
FLAP

FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
Yol-ATT
What will I do to survive...
...starting tomorrow?

IMPERIAL ARMY
S.S.III
PUMPKIN
SCISSORS

3 Years
Later...

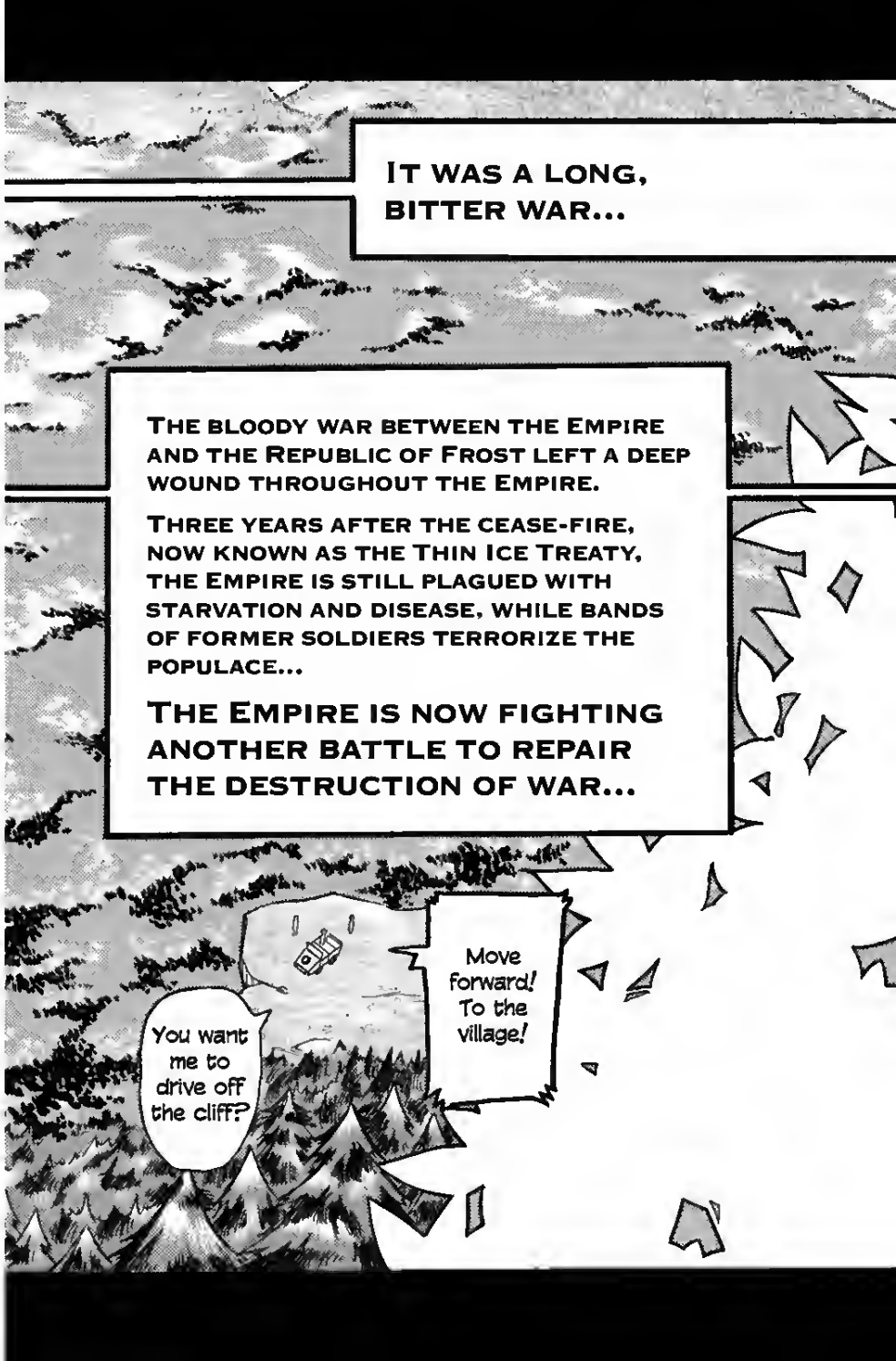

They've got a tank!
Crap!

That's not a dam anymore...

It's the thugs' home base!
CLATTER
CLATTER
Don't wanna mess with that...
I agree.
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
PAINT
PAINT
Imperial Army State Section III Warrant Officer Machs
Imperial Army State Section III Werrant Officer Oreido
KLOP
Our job is to gather and report information!
It's not like we're going to raid the-
What?
すっく…
STAND
INF ARMY
SS-II 1
DRUFF
DRUFF
Four-eyes, you're always too calm.
Imperial Army State Section III Mercury Corporal Private First Class

Imperial Army State
Section III
Commanding Field Officer
2nd Lieutenant Alice L. Malvin

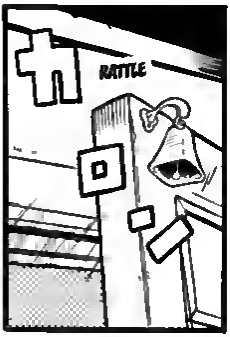
†All Hallows' Eve


It was a long, bitter war...
The bloody war between the Empire and the Republic of Frost left a deep wound throughout the Empire.
Three years after the cease-fire, now known as the Thin Ice Treaty, the Empire is still plagued with starvation and disease, while bands of former soldiers terrorize the populace...
The Empire is now fighting another battle to repair the destruction of war...
You want me to drive off the cliff?
Move forward! To the village!

Your asparagus salad is ready!
ぼけ～っ
That dam?
Bunch of hoodlums use that as their home base!

They started to extort supplies from the village.
We'd love to get rid of them, but they've got a tank.
A unit of former soldiers calling themselves the Grey Wolf decided to call that dam their home around a year ago.
I doubt you'll find anything.
SIGH
I'm sure you're here to look for a job.
SCRAPE
MUNCH
MUNCH
CHOMP
CHOMP

CHEW
CHEW
CHEW
Another order, please!


RATTLE

If you don't mind eating leaves, you can have as much as you want.
HAHA! I like you!

STOMP
Soldiers must always—
STOMP
STOMP

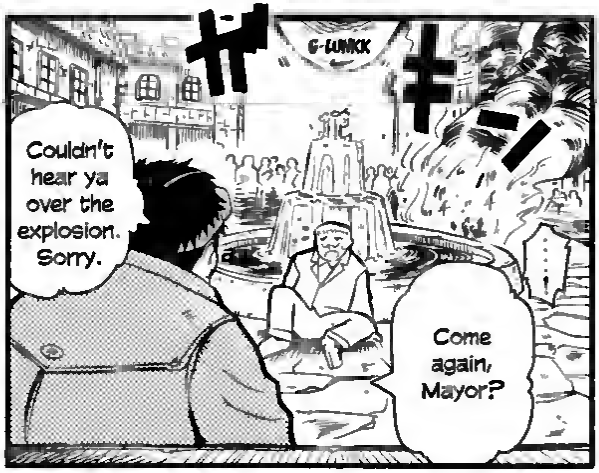
STOMP
Sheltered blue-blooded officers have no clue...
We're proud soldiers! There's no need to sneak around!
Shush!
We're here to gather intelligence. Shouldn't we be more covert...?
Oh geez...
STOMP

FREEZE
Are you soldiers from the capital?
That's right...
Imperial Army Section III.
SQUEEZE
?
You'll wanna remember that. After all, we're—
HUFF

BLASSHHH
Unh!
BOOOM
!?
STAGGER
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
What's... going on here!?
A round...
65mm
From a tank...
DASH
AAAHH!
They're here...

CRANK
CRANK
CRANK
SCHWOOD GLUNKK
CLUNK
The Grey Wolf...

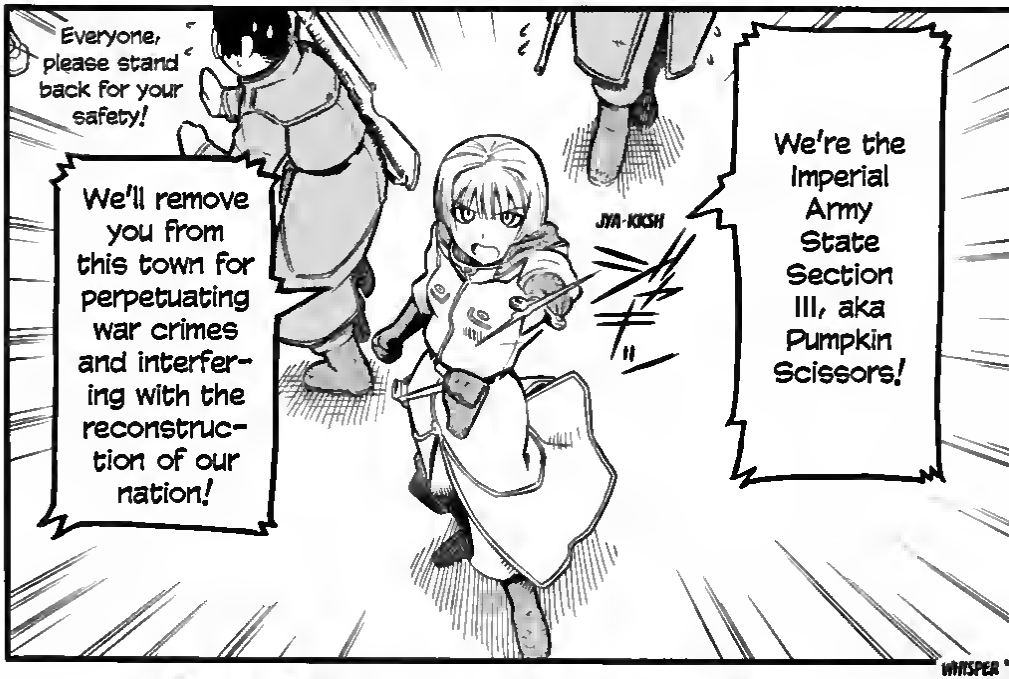
Whaaat!?
It's the truth. We don't have enough food to share...

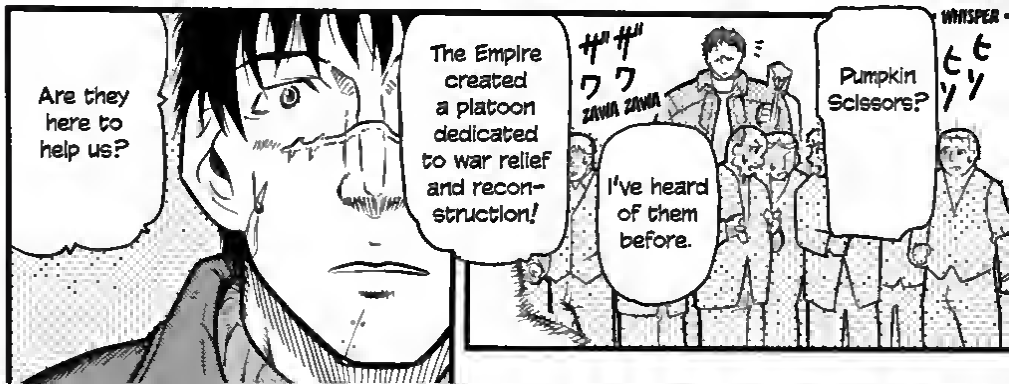

G-UNNKK
Couldn't hear ya over the explosion. Sorry.
Come again, Mayor?

How many times do I have to repeat myself?
Should we fire another round, Lieutenant?

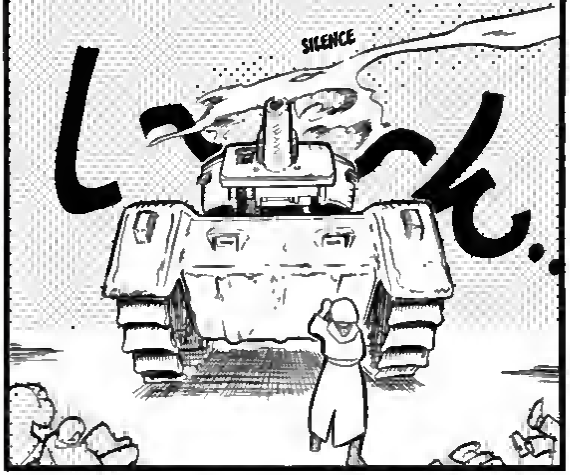
I'm not asking you to share. Hand it over!
TUG
CLIK CLIK
. . . !

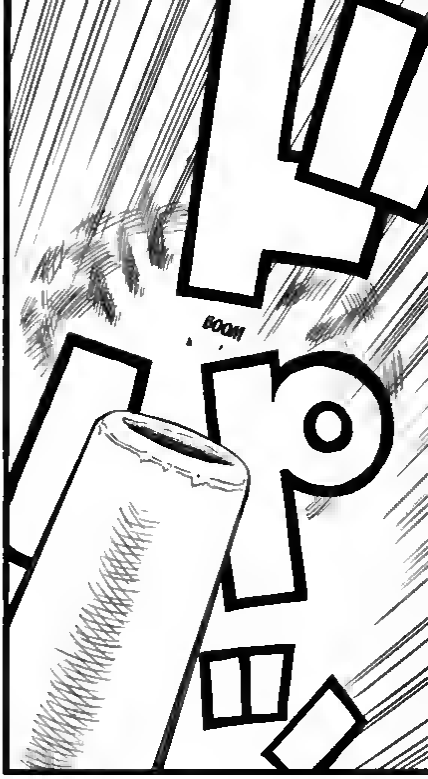
MUTTER
Wolf? That's funny, you punk-ass mountain monkey!
Call me Wolf!
THUD

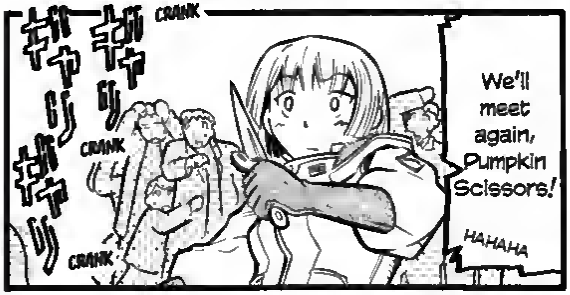

Everyone, please stand back for your safety!
We'll remove you from this town for perpetuating war crimes and interfering with the reconstruction of our nation!
JYA-KKSH
We're the Imperial Army State Section III, aka Pumpkin Scissors!

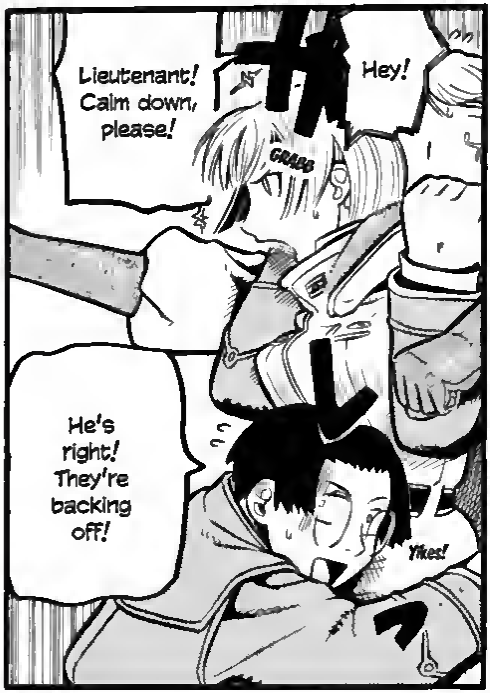

Are they here to help us?
The Empire created a platoon dedicated to war relief and reconstruction!
ZAWA ZAWA
I've heard of them before.
Pumpkin Scissors?
WHISPER
WHISPER

War relief and reconstruction platoon!?
.....
SNEER
MURMUR
MURMUR
!
Load the K-3.
WHISPER
BOOM
!?
They're loading another round...
!
RATTLE
They shot toward the sky?
CLUNK


SILENCE
しーん…


BOOM
ドーン!!

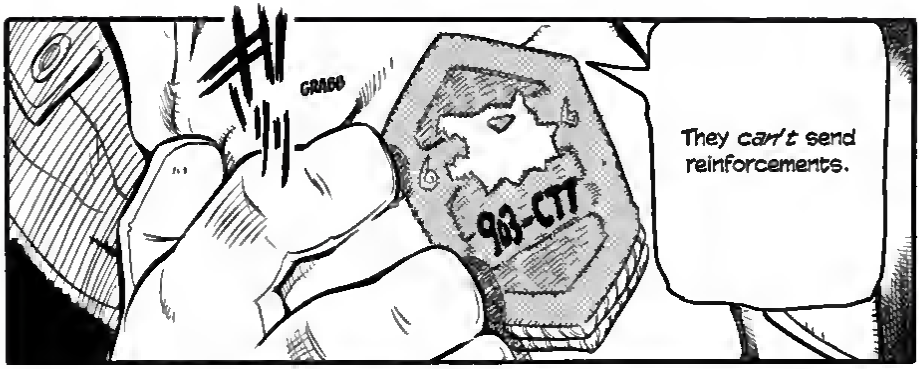

CRANK
CRANK
CRANK
We'll meet again, Pumpkin Scissors!
HAHAHA

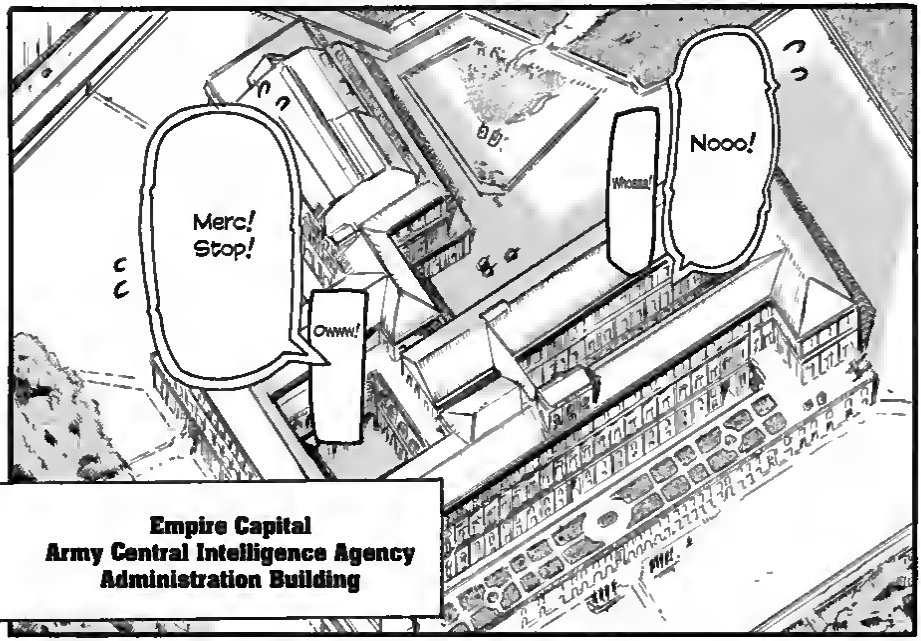

Lieutenant! Calm down, please!
Hey!
GRABB
He's right! They're backing off!
Yikes!

They're retreating?

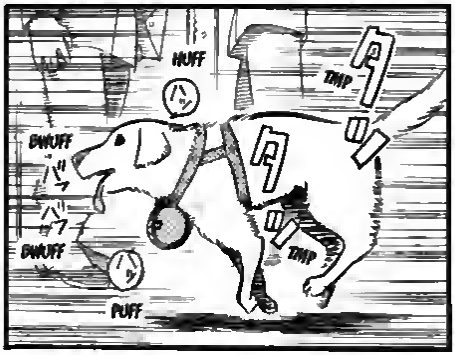
Do you feel anything coming down?
I don't think so...
?
Lieutenant?
?
They fired a blank shot! How dare they insult-
TWITCH
That's right, I—
Hmmm?
Weird... I've felt the twinge twice today...
SQUEEZE
Are you trying to get yourself killed?
Challenging a tank like that...

War crimes...?
They won't send anyone.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
Wolf!?
Wolf, what do we do? Reinforcements could be sent from the capital as early as tomorrow!
We're now war criminals?
I am...?
GRRRSHH



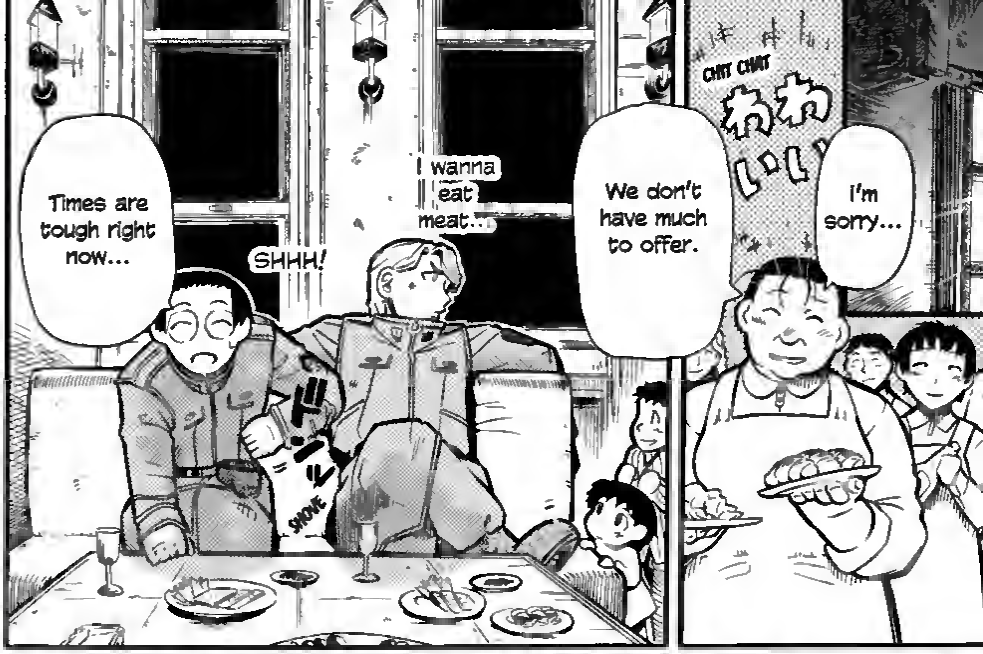


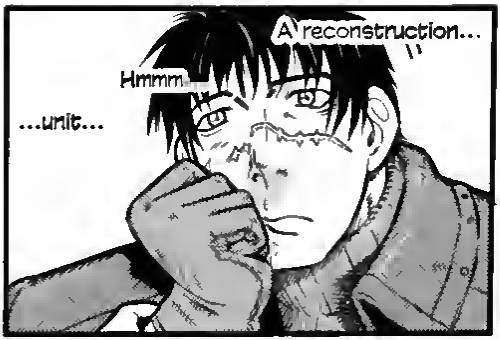
Empire Capital
Army Central Intelligence Agency
Administration Building



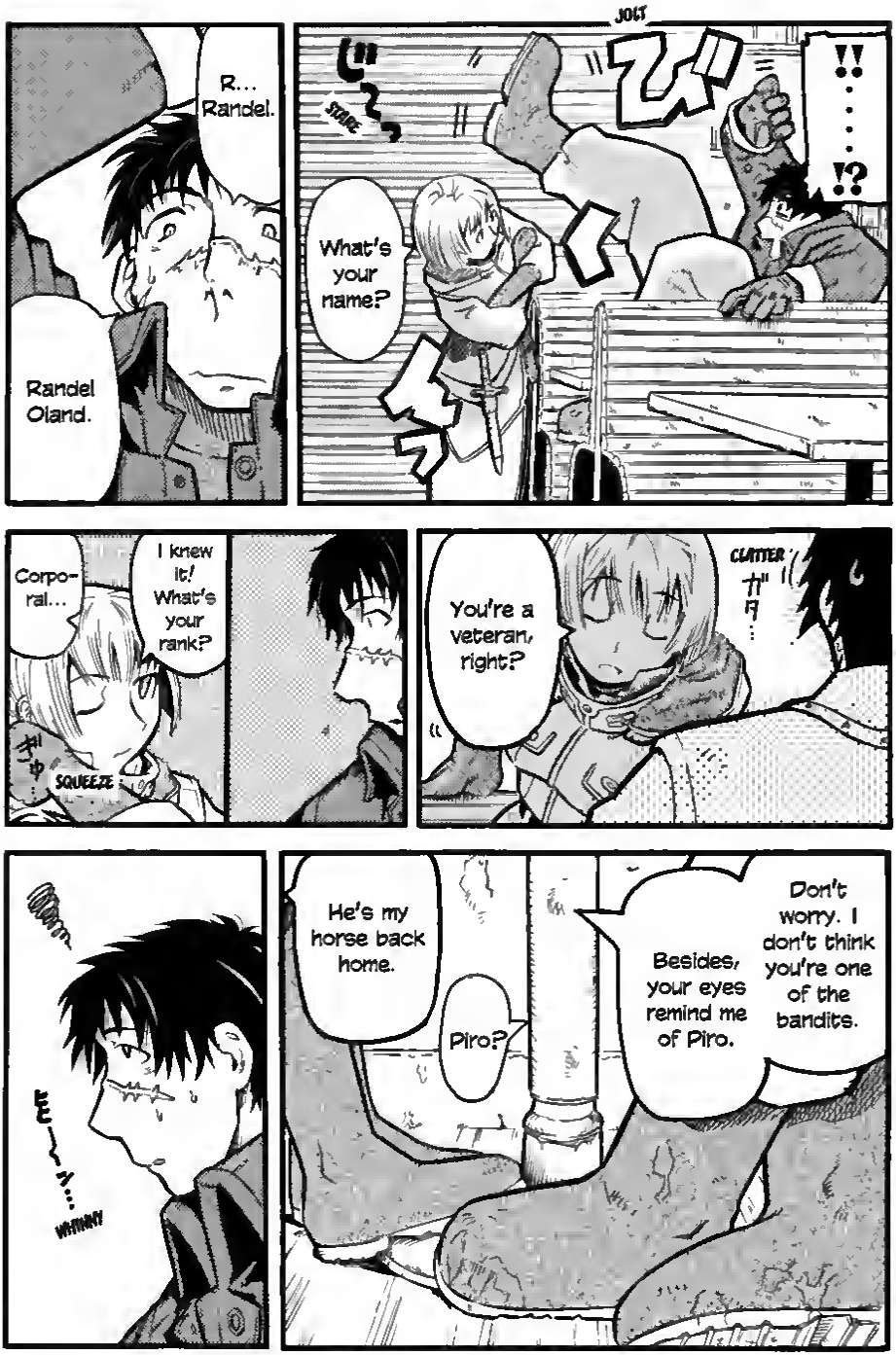
……
DRIP
SLOP
Imperial Army State
Section III
Commanding Officer
Captain Hunks
SPLAT
SLAM
KYAAHH
CIRCLE
CIRCLE
CIRCLE
CIRCLE
Oh!
That was all Merc's fault...
DRENCH
Strange
SNIFF
Actually, I tripped on my own.
Woof?
DROP
SHAKE
Imperial Army State
Section III
Sergeant Major Stecchin

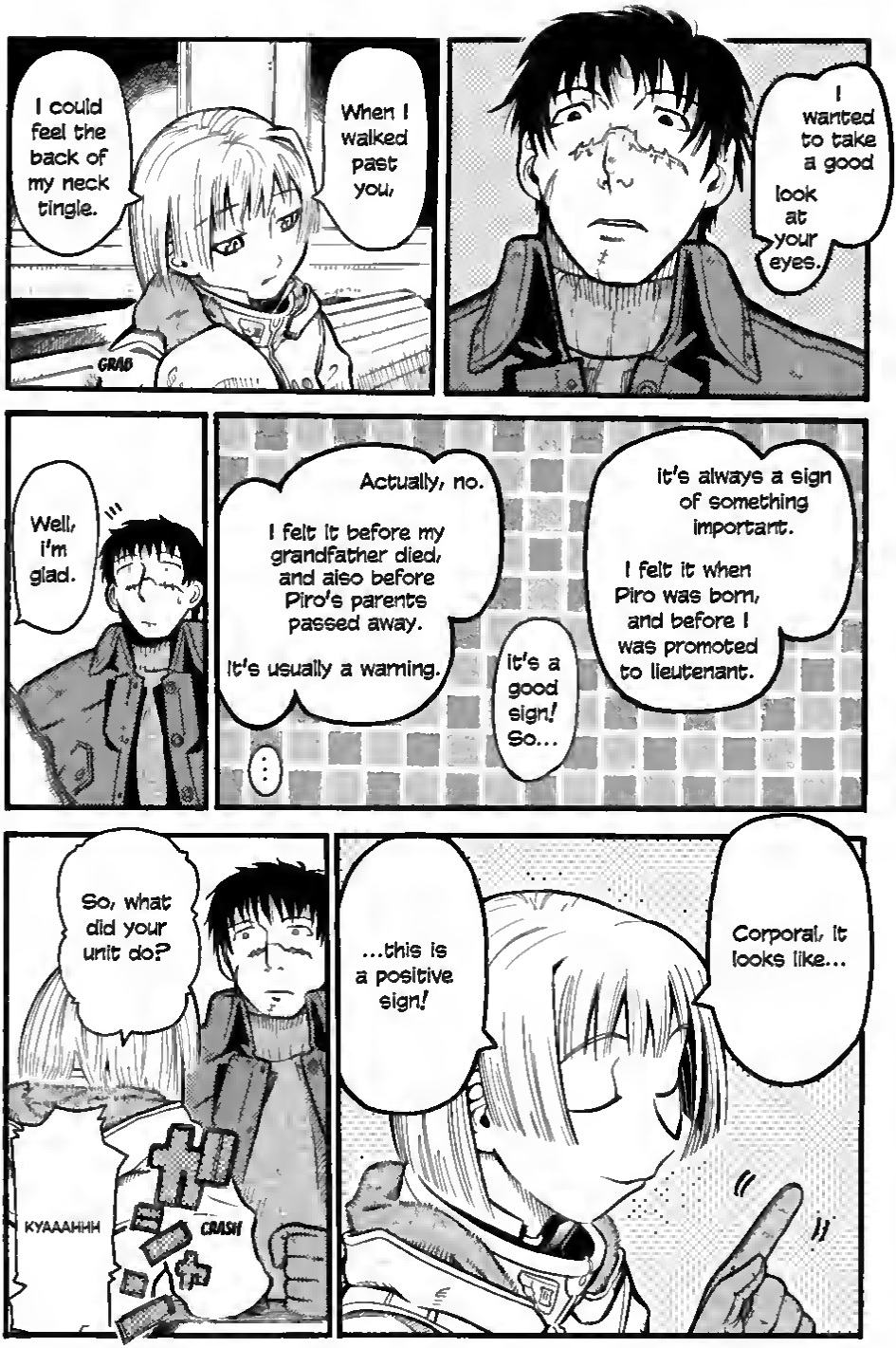
A dozen or so men with firearms, one tank, two cannons...
Why didn't we hear about this earlier?
What?
Merc isn't strange! He's an exceptional messenger!
I'm talking about the report from Alice.
SLAMM
You sent your men to *that* dam, didn't you?
What's the big fuss?
Hunks! Are you in here!?
You need to order your men out of that area *right now*...
You are *not* to interfere with Grey Wolf!
Imperial Army State Section I Commanding Officer Major Connery


Times are tough right now...
SHHH!
I wanna eat meat...
We don't have much to offer.
CHIT CHAT
I'm sorry...
SHOVE


A reconstruction...
Hmmm
...unit...

YAK YAK
CHATTER CHATTER


R... Randel.
Randel Oland.
JOLT
STARE
What's your name?
!!
.....
!?
Corpo-ral...
I knew it! What's your rank?
SQUEEZE
You're a veteran, right?
CLATTER
He's my horse back home.
Piro?
Besides, your eyes remind me of Piro.
Don't worry. I don't think you're one of the bandits.
EU~~~...
WHINNY

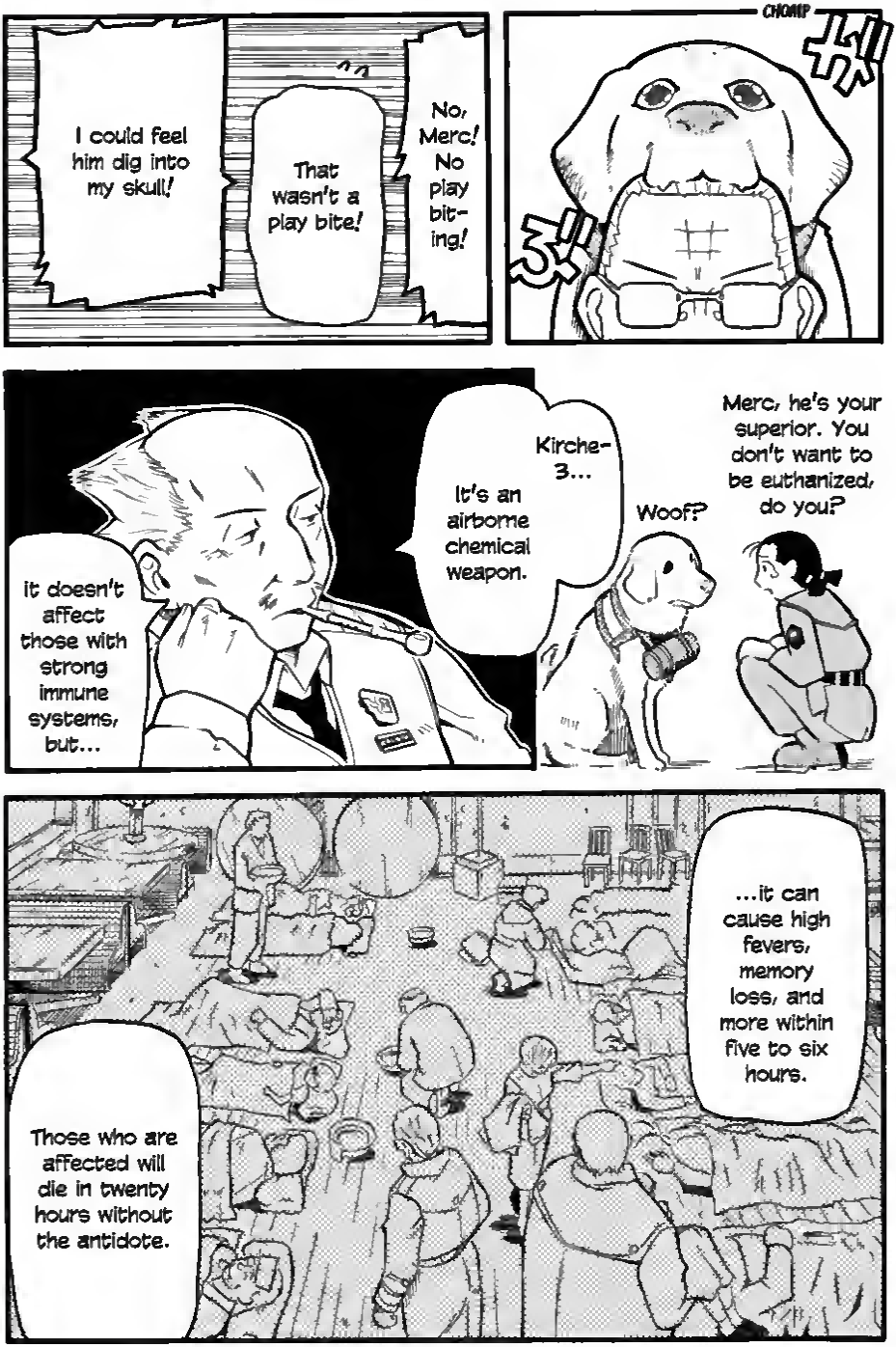

I could feel the back of my neck tingle.
When I walked past you,
GRAB
I wanted to take a good look at your eyes.
Well, I'm glad.
!!!
Actually, no.
I felt it before my grandfather died, and also before Piro's parents passed away.
It's usually a warning.
it's a good sign! So...
It's always a sign of something important.
I felt it when Piro was born, and before I was promoted to lieutenant.
So, what did your unit do?
KYAAAHHH
CRASH
...this is a positive sign!
Corporal, it looks like...

U... gh...
I dunno! She... just...
STAGGER
SLUMP
What's wrong with her?
Ma'am!
SHAKE SHAKE
CLATTER
SLUMP
DROP
THUD
RATTLE
CATCHK
...food poisoning.
I doubt it's...

ドドド

It should be about time.
That was a young lieutenant.
I bet she graduated after the cease-fire.
PEEP PEEP
She's a little pip-squeak of peace.
Let's show those bastards...
...what war and soldiers are all about!

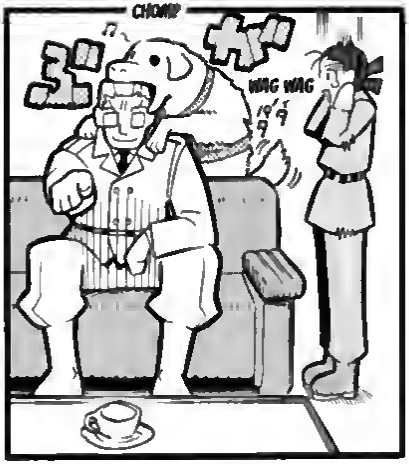
…ん～～ず
GLARE
The tea's getting cold.
K-3? Kirche-3, right?
So... Krankheit Jäger actually exists, eh...
CTT?
Grey Wolf is officially identified as 903CTT.
DRIP
SIZZLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
DWUFF DWUFF
WAG
WAG
They're Chemical Tactical Troopers. They handle K-3 and other chemical weapons.
ACK
Nosy pip-squeak...
Sir, what is Kirche-3?
THRUST
Um...
Don't leave me behind...

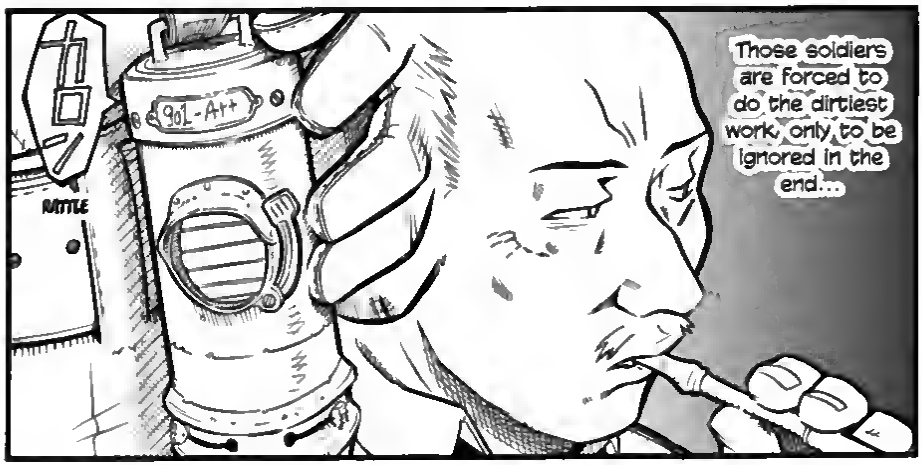

I could feel him dig into my skull!
That wasn't a play bite!
No, Merc! No play bit-ing!
CHOMP
Kirche-3...
It's an airborne chemical weapon.
It doesn't affect those with strong immune systems, but...
Woof?
Merc, he's your superior. You don't want to be euthanized, do you?
...it can cause high fevers, memory loss, and more within five to six hours.
Those who are affected will die in twenty hours without the antidote.

Unfortunately, the Empire created many "illegal" troops.
Right. Chemical weapons are against international treaty.
. . . . !
The Empire took the forbidden path....
GRIP
...and that must remain a secret.
903, Krankheit Jäger, Harbinger of the Ashes of Death... 906, Fallschirm Jäger, The Wingless Divers...
The Invisible 9, eh? It wasn't just a rumor.
ズズ
SLURP
We don't need to send reinforcements to an empty dam.
903 doesn't exist.
So, you're basically saying...

That's a small price to pay to contain this information.
A single, tiny village.

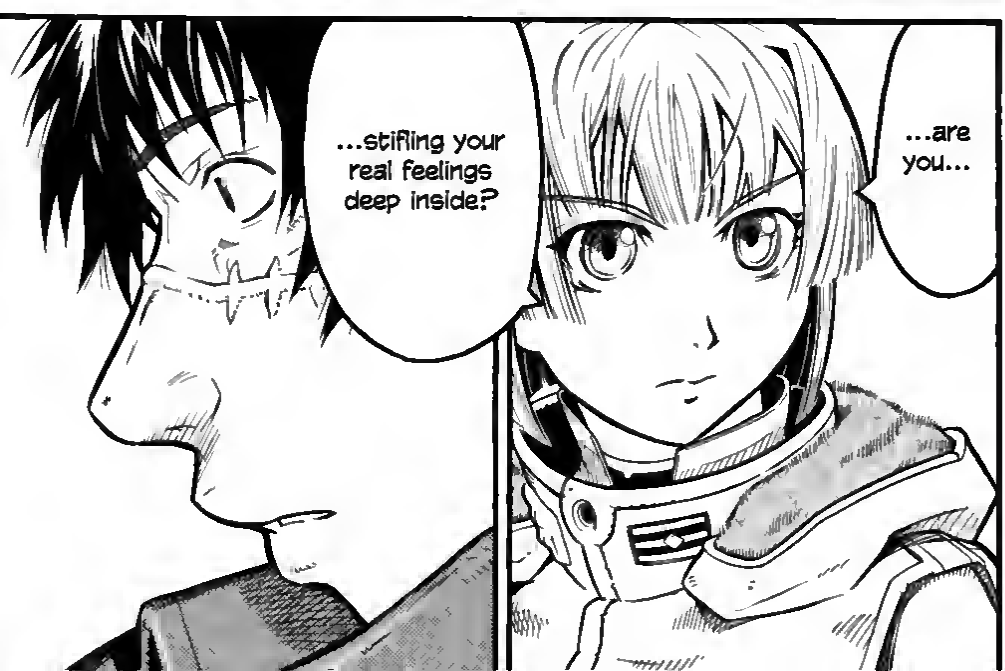
OWW-WWW!
Oh my gosh!
Worthless dog! It needs to be euthanized!
NOOOO!


CHOMP
WAG WAG


RATTLE
Those soldiers are forced to do the dirtiest work, only to be ignored in the end...

Just occurred to me...
Watch what you say!
Antidotes!
They've got to have antidotes!
WRING
PANT
PANT
PANT
RATTLE
Prepare to attack!
STOMP
Told you...
I heard you!!
SPLAT
What if the lieutenant hears you?
When evil runs amok while good people suffer...
That's impossible!
You'll lose and die in the process!

Do you not feel anything, or...
...don't you feel anything at all?


...stifling your real feelings deep inside?
...are you...

ZAAH
We need lights!
Lamps, torches, we need 'em all!
Does anyone have a map of the dam?

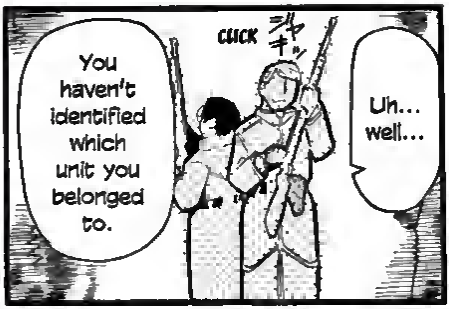
...my heart started racing.
It's called strategy.
Another one of your plans?
The first time I heard about them...

Lieu-ten-ant.
Our biggest obstacle is the tank...

War relief...
and reconstruction!!

This dam has dual holding tanks.
Cor-por-al...
I'll take care of the tank.
If we can open tank #1 to flood them out...
Enemy
①
②
Army Truck
Their base is situated between the two tanks.
.....
STARE
...challenge a tank!
You told me that it's suicidal to...
CHUCKLE
3. 3.
The tank won't run in the mud!

That's right.
It's an act of insanity.
TINGLE


CLICK
You haven't identified which unit you belonged to.
Uh... well...

Yes?

ATT 901
We don't have much time.

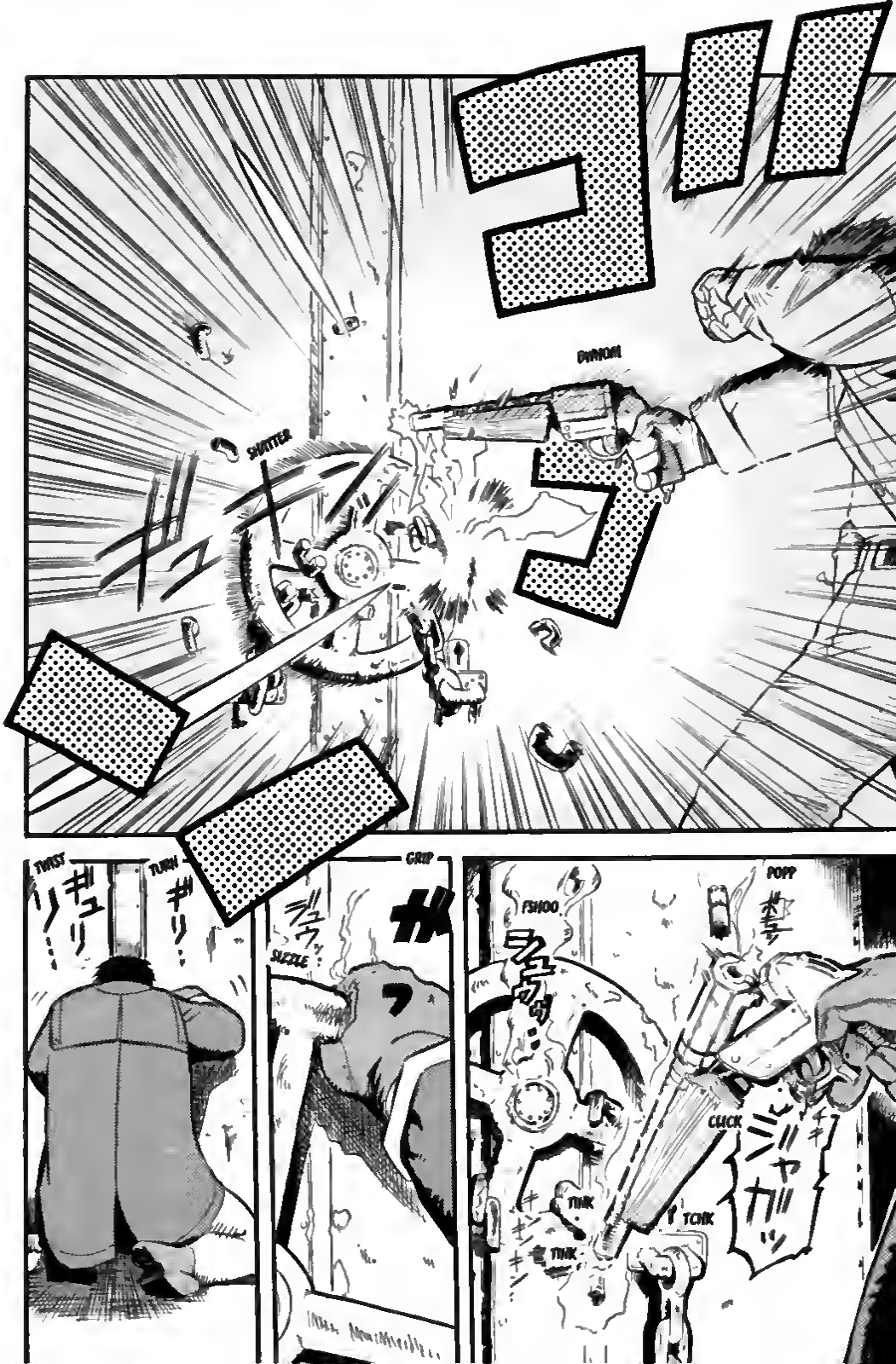
SLAMM
...got a problem, Wolf!
TMP TMP TMP
We've
Those lights! The army sent reinforcements...
They didn't abandon the village...
Go shoot at 'em with guns.
It's a bluff.

BAM
BAM
BANG
BANG
We'll pump your asses full of lead!
C'mon! What's holding ya back!?
KRACK
ACK!
BANG
Yeah, but we gotta separate them.
That was the strategy!
I think they've called our bluff!
PTHNG
PTHNG
I think...
Well, I'm a feminist.
After all...
It's not very manly...
THPP
WHIRRRR
PTHNG
CLANK
BAM

B-BANG
PING
...the easier job.
...they've got...
Dammit, I can't do this!
FLAP
FLAP
WHOOOSH
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
Stand back.
?
FUMBLE
This cutter isn't strong enough to cut through.
The gate's secured with a chain...
JANGLE

TUG
……!
FLUTTER
RATTLE
PUSH
CREAAAK
RATTLE
FLASH
PWIP
PWIP
Lieutenant, you should focus on searching for the antidote.
I'll take care of this.
FLICKER

Are you—
Cor-poral! Hey!
CREAK
GROOOAN
It casts a blue light...
What is that lantern?
Are you going to be all right by yourself?
Get
moving!
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
Be careful!
Oh... yeah.

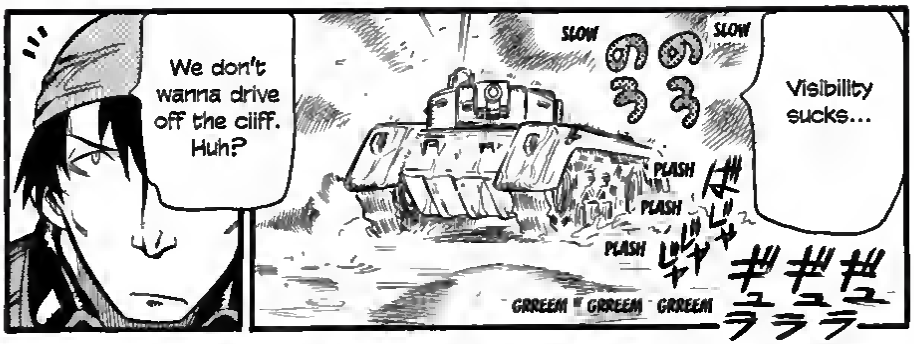

SHUTTER
PHNOM
TWIST
TURN
GRIP
SIZZLE
FSHOO
POPP
CLICK
TONK
TINK
TINK

It's cold and dusky... Like a will-o'-the-wisp
I can't get that blue light outta my eyes!
B-BMP
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
...some kind of monster?
Could he be...
TINGLE
TINGLE
The gate!
It's open!
CRANG CRANG
CRACK
CRACK
SLAAAAM
SPLISSH

CRASHHHH
R-R-RUMBLE
Wolf...!
SPLOORSSH
The gate's open...
What's that noise?
How interesting...
SHEER
They're trying to slow us down!

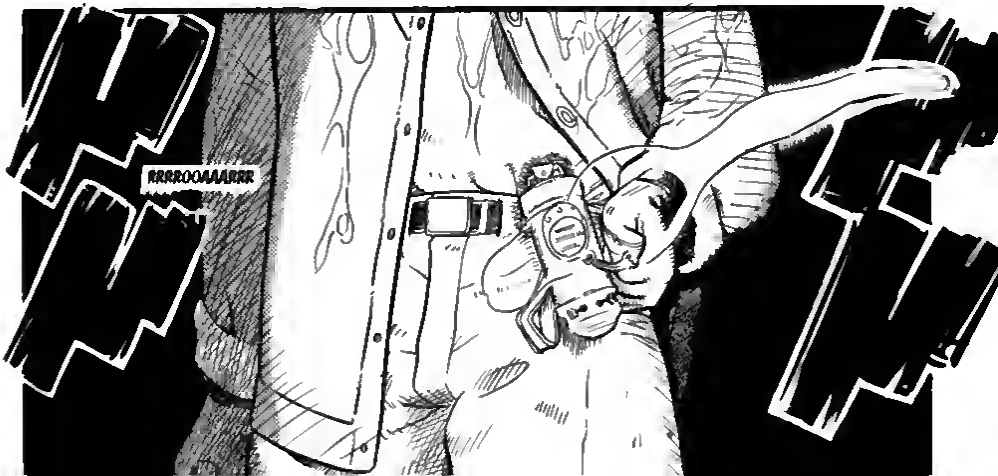
We've still got time!
Let's get the tank rolling!
ZAAH
Roger!
RRR-MOLE
I'm behaving like a cat burglar... Unbelievable...
CRAP
DASH
DASH
DASH
DASH
DASH
DASH
PEEK
SLAM
Those uncivilized bastards!
Aw no!
MESSY
MESSY
The antidote...

SPLAAASSH
WHIRRRR
WHIRRRR
RORRSSSH
SPLISH
SPLASH
VROOM
We're rollin'!
We gotta move before the road gets flooded!
WHEEEEM
WHEEEEM
PLISH
PLISH
PLISH
PLISH
Damn!
Feels like we're dog-paddlin'!
SPLISSH
SPLISSH
SPLISSH


We don't wanna drive off the cliff. Huh?
SLOW
SLOW
Visibility sucks...
PLASH
PLASH
PLASH
GRREEM
GRREEM
GRREEM

I see something up ahead...
What's wrong?

...will-o'-the-wisp?
R-R-R-R-R-R-Rumble
Looks like a...


RRRROOAAARRR

A dark blue lantern light!?
SHUDDER
RRRROOOAAAR
CREAAAK

I'm sorry. Yes, sir!
HURRY UP!
CLUNK
Prepare the acid round!
This'll disintegrate him, bones and all!
Hehehehe
CLUNK

VRRRROOOM
SPLASSHH
Dammit!
Where the hell is he?
TAP
POP
Crap!
I can't see...
DVHOOMM

Fall back! Don't let him near!
Fall...
"They march among the midnight glow."
VROOOM
Who is he!? What the—!!
901. Anti-Tank Troopers!
SHAPP
He's one of us!
チキ
TCHK

ガキン
CLINK
The Gespenster Jägers!! Death March Troopers...
DASH
ドド
Fire!
DWOOM
ウゥゥ

FLOORSH
FLING
GRAB
LAUNCH
Uh...
What-!?
How could he block that round with just a coat!?
SIZZ
SIZZ
PFFSST
PFFSST
SIZZ
SIZZ
POP
FIZZLE
SNAP
POP
THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD
QUEAK
QUEAK
QUEAK
SIZZZZLE

Calm down and...
!?
SHATTER
He's not stopping, the crazy freak!
AAAGGGH!
Dammit!
STOMP
STOMP
S...
Stop!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
SIZZ
SIZZ

Let go, you freak!
Get the hell away!
CLUNKK
What....
SLAM
God... No...
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

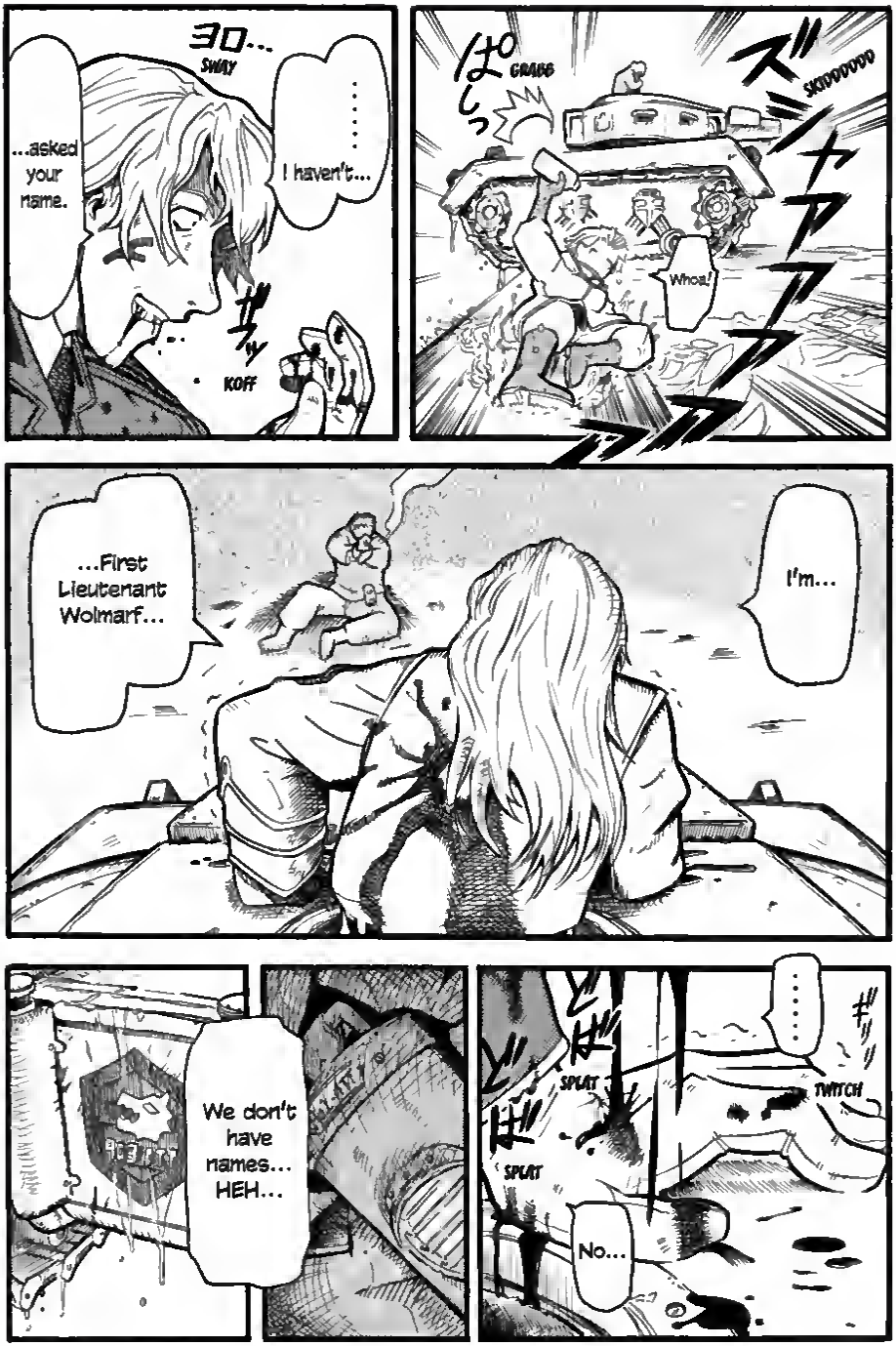
CRACK
SKRATCHHH
SKRATCHHH
SKRATCHHH
SKRATCHHH
SKRRRRRRIDE
CRACKKKK
CRUMBLE
...901.
POP
You live up to your reputation...
GATCH-K
Suicidal determination to achieve point-blank range.

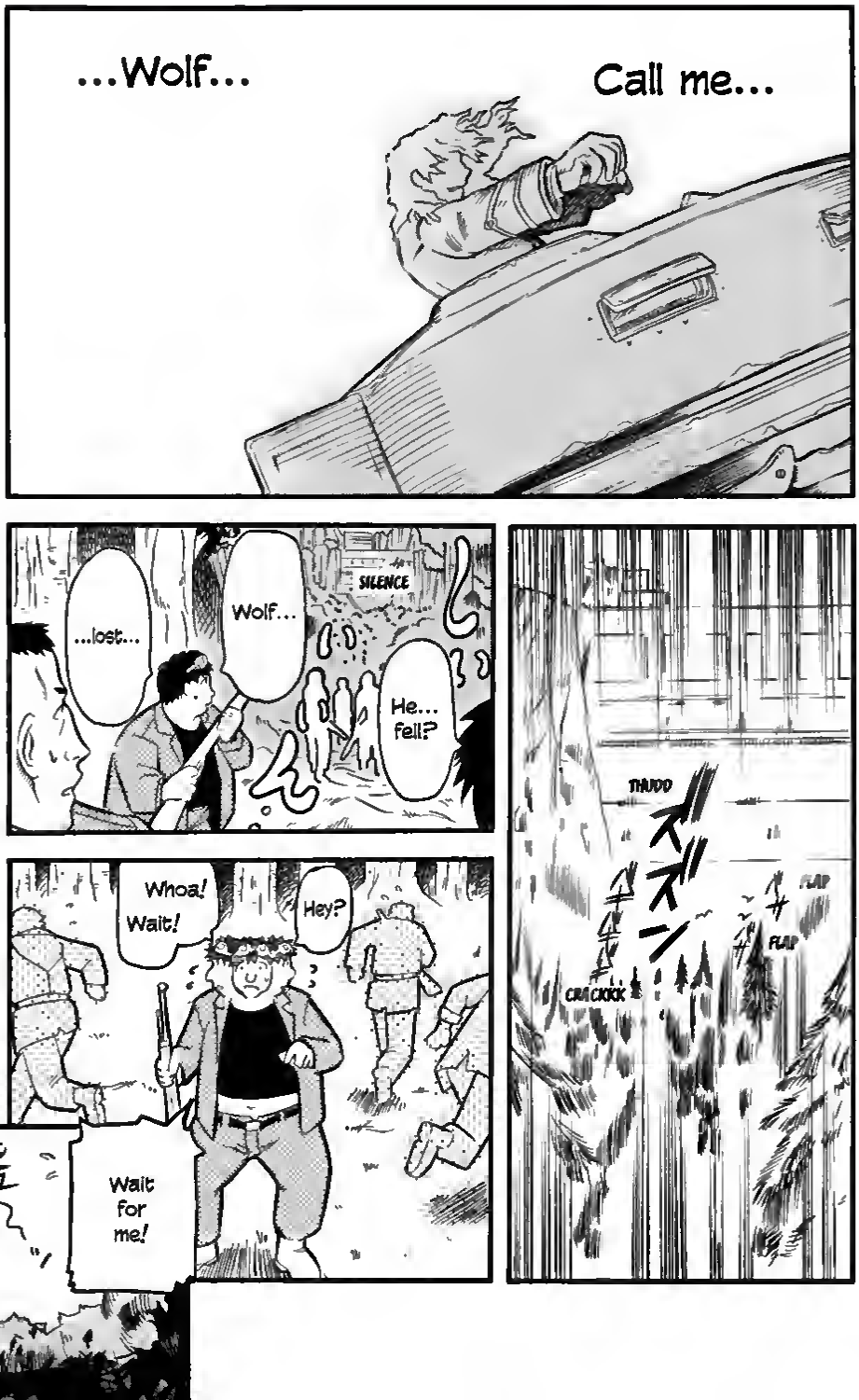
Shoot me.
SLOSH
What's the matter?
Wolf!?
Hey, look up!
...the antidote goes bye-bye.
WHOOOSH
CRUMB...
Right... I have the antidote. You shoot me...
SPLISH SPLASH
Pull the trigger!
POW
POW
POW
Do it!
Do it!
C'mon! Shoot me!
RAISE
WHOOOSH

What's the point of risking your ass for those people?
NNNOOOO
You're supposed to be one of us, 901...
War relief? Reconstruction? Friggin' pipe dream!
You're just wastin' your time!
You idiot!
CLIK

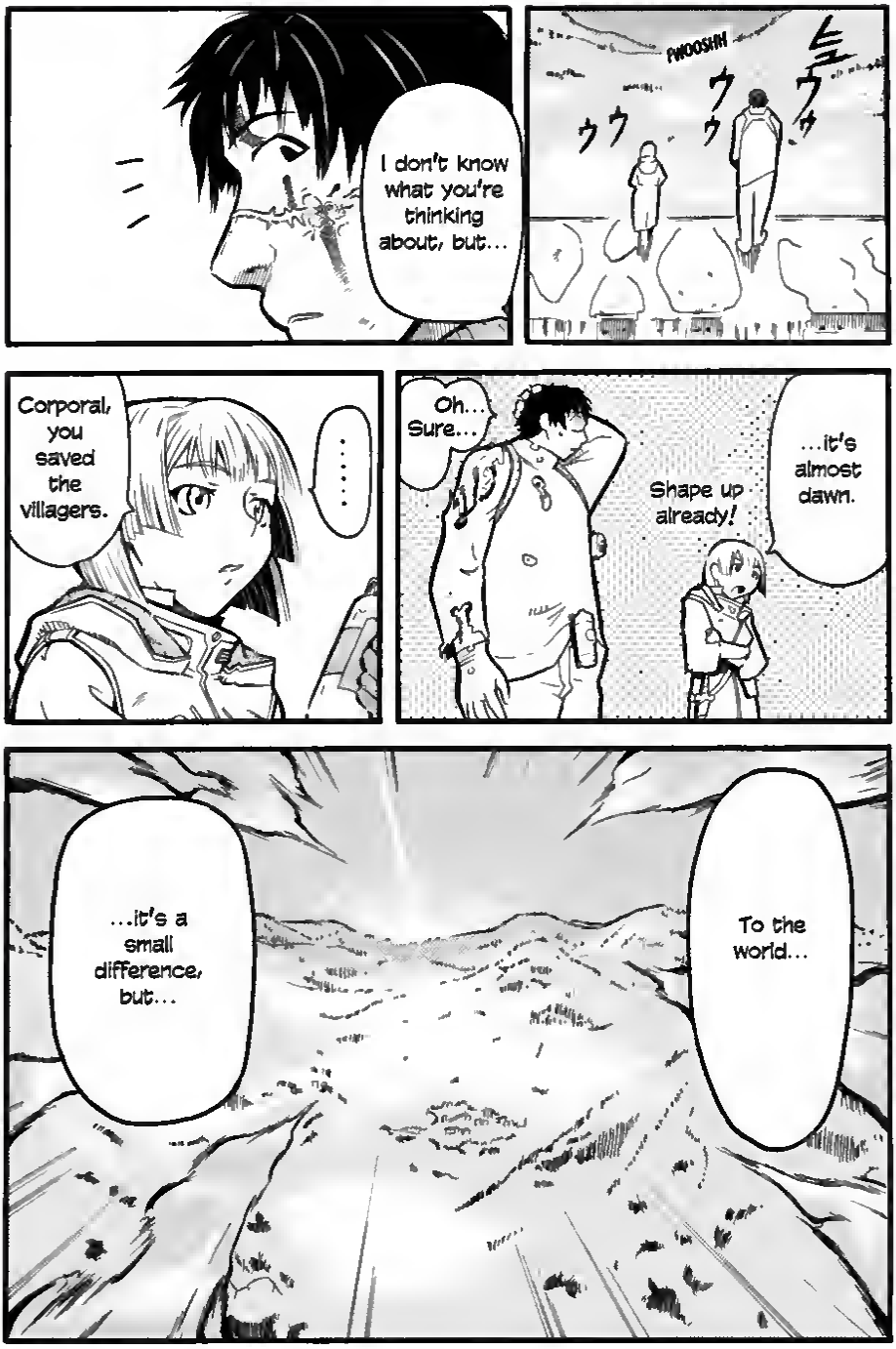
Army...
Section III!

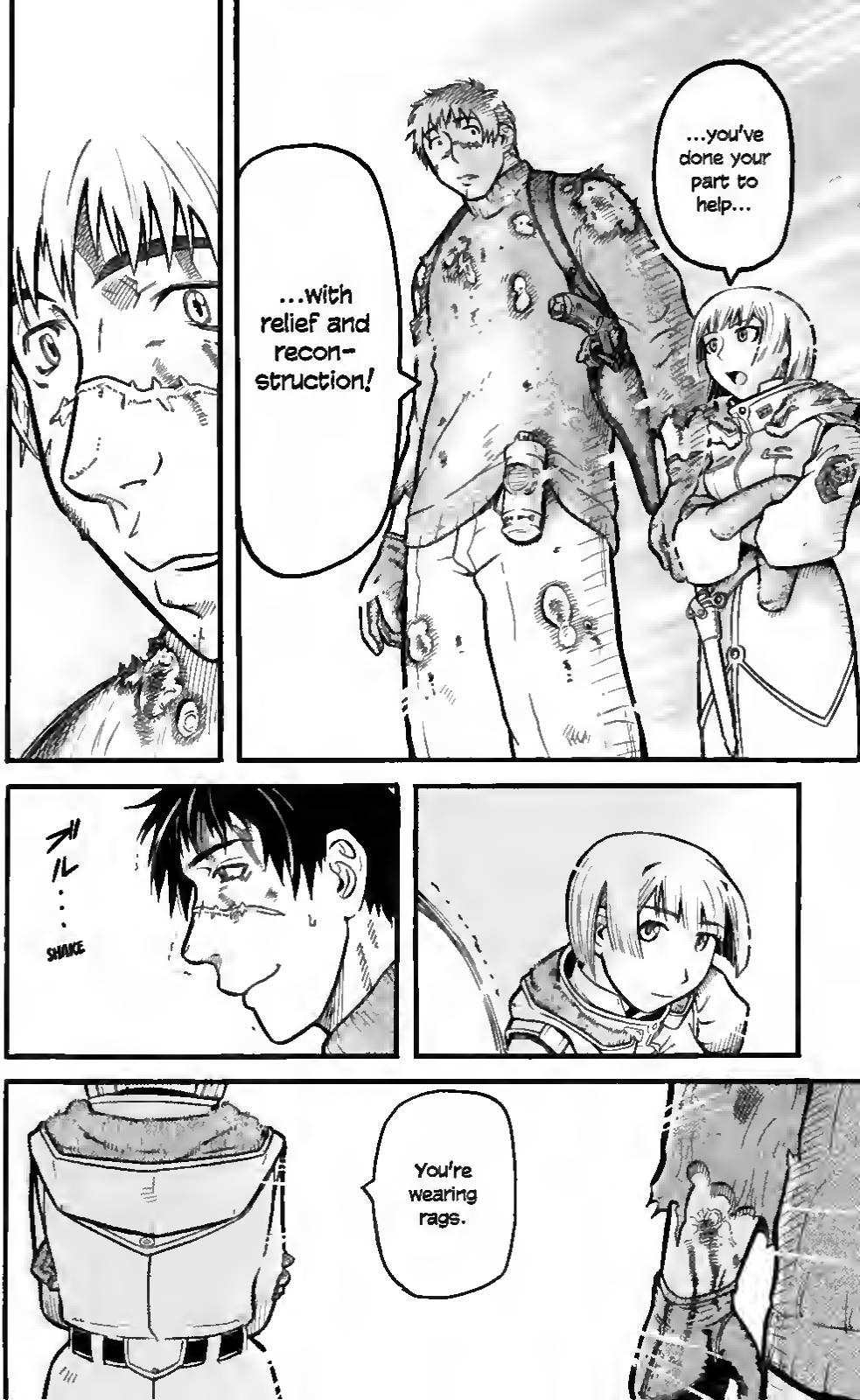
BOOM!

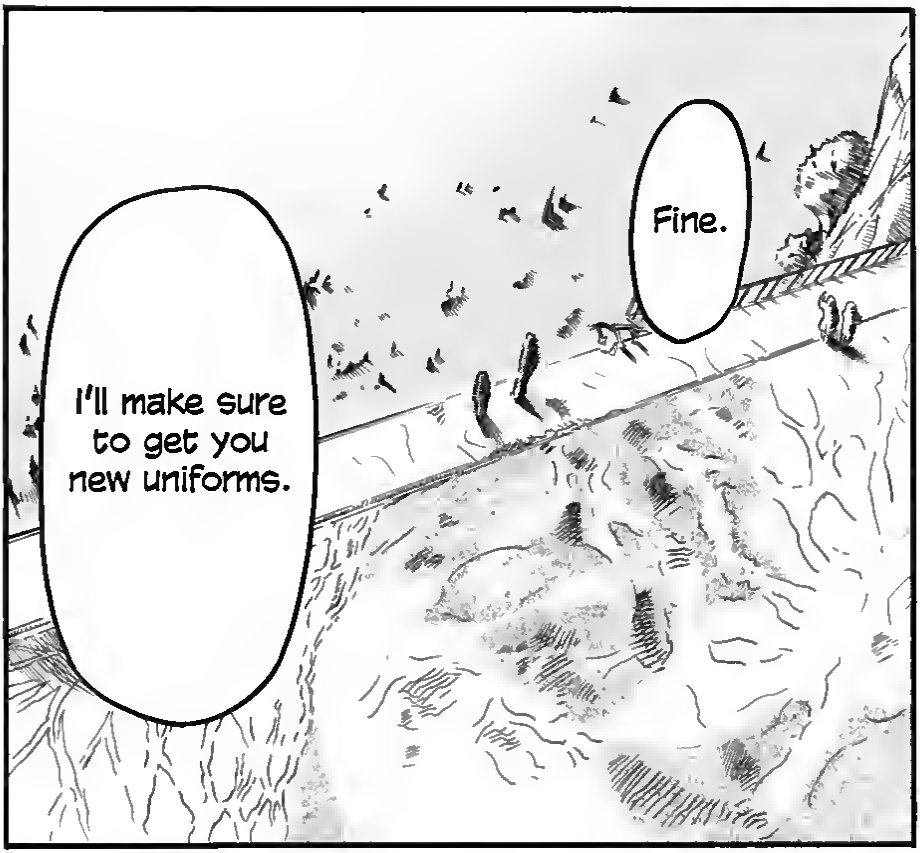

ヨロ...
SWAY
...asked your name.
.....
I haven't...
KOFF
はらっ
GRABS
ズシャアアアア
SKIDDDDDD
Whoa!
...First Lieutenant Wolmarf...
I'm...
We don't have names... HEH...
.....
SPLAT
SPLAT
TWITCH
No...


...Wolf...
Call me...
...lost...
Wolf...
SILENCE
He... fell?
THUDD
FLAP
FLAP
CRACKKK
Whoa! Wait!
Hey?
DASH
Wait for me!

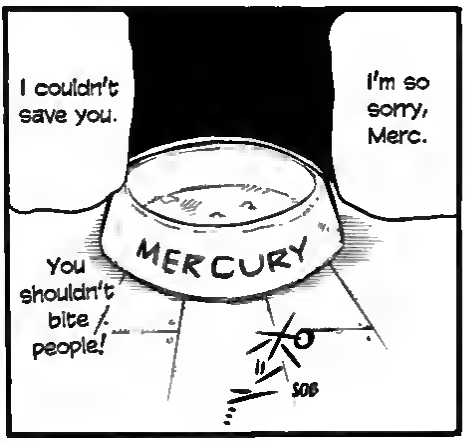
Thank goodness...
ズズズ...
SLUMP
You're seriously burned. You okay?
ヒューウウウ
WHOOSH
ピチョン
PLISH
PLISH
ピチョン
FSHOOO
I know. I'm used to it.
CLANCK
カシュン
チキキ
FWPP

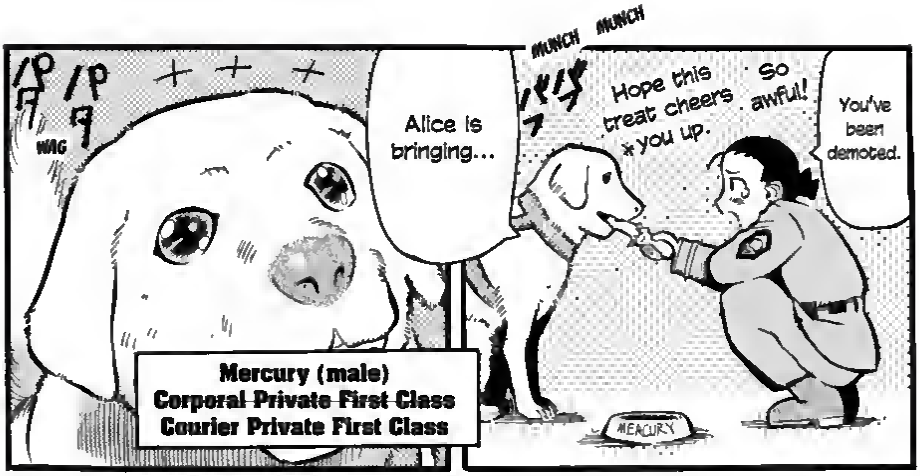

I don't know what you're thinking about, but...
FWOOSHH
Corporal, you saved the villagers.
.....
Oh... Sure...
Shape up already!
...it's almost dawn.
...it's a small difference, but...
To the world...


...you've done your part to help...
...with relief and recon-struction!
SHAKE
You're wearing rags.

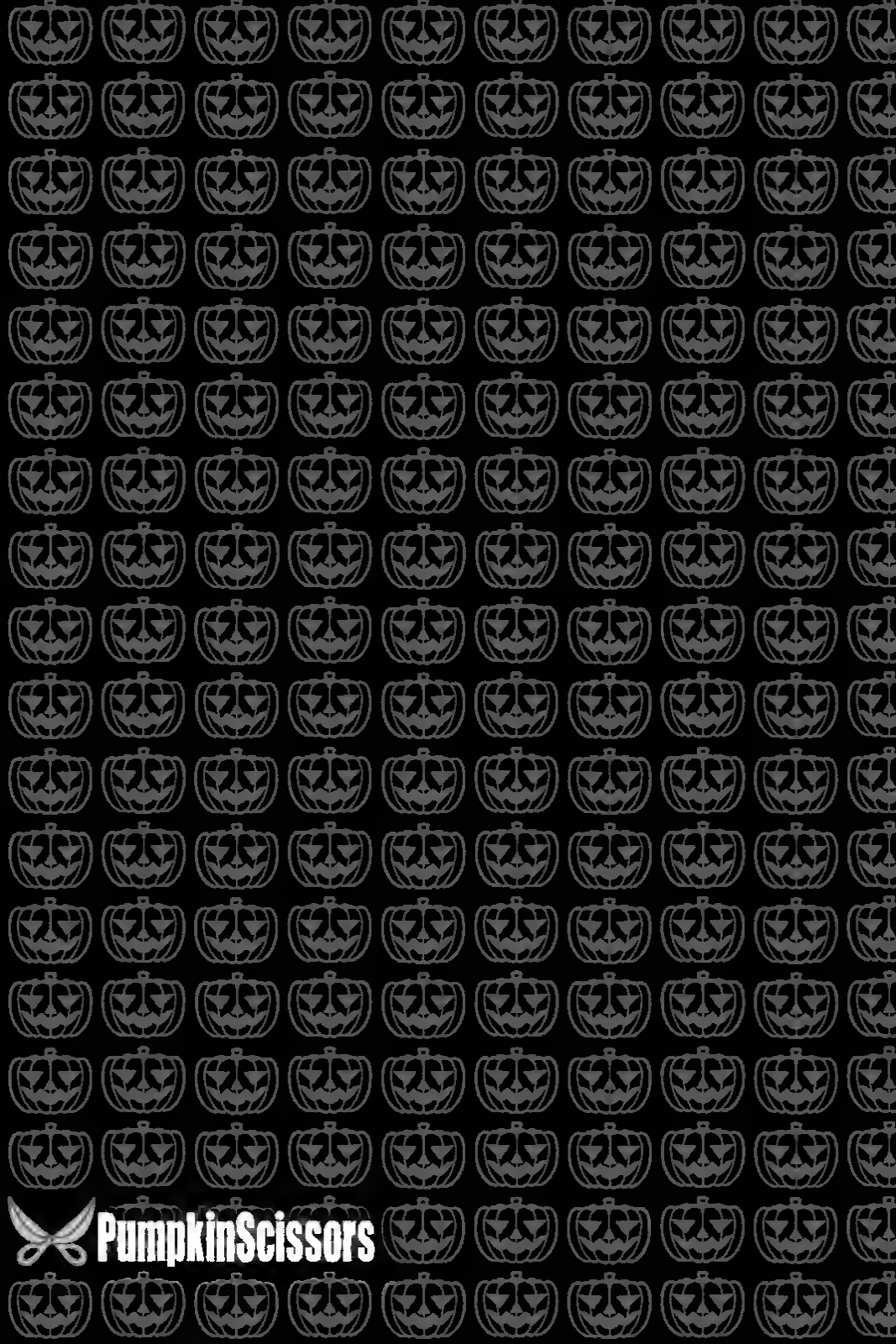

Fine.
I'll make sure to get you new uniforms.

SOB
SNIFF
...favorite treat...
Sausage was your...

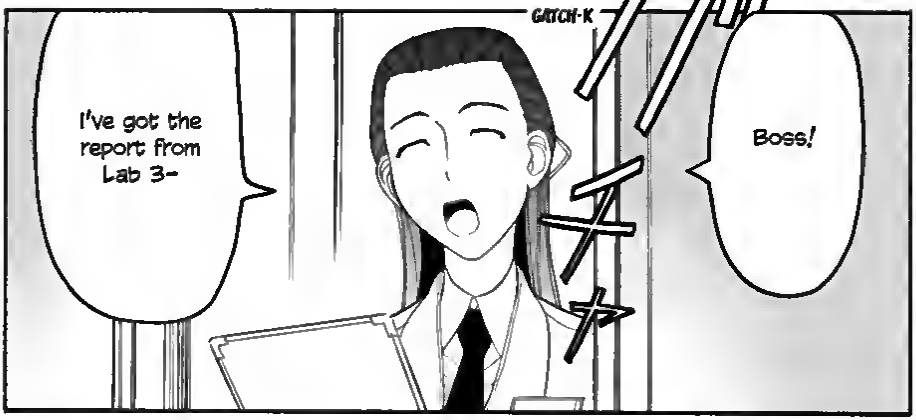

I couldn't save you.
I'm so sorry, Merc.
MERCURY
You shouldn't bite people!
SOB

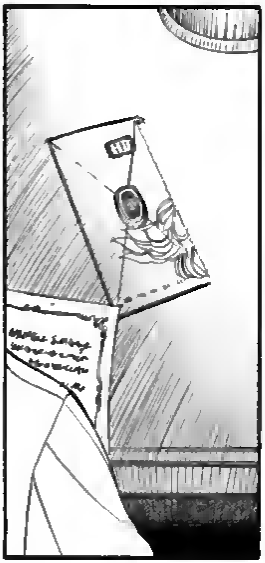

WAG
Alice is bringing...
MUNCH MUNCH
Hope this treat cheers you up.
So awful!
You've been demoted.
Mercury (male)
~~Corporal Private First Class~~
Courier Private First Class
MERCURY

...a new corporal to the team!
All Hallows' Eve ／END


PumpkinScissors

Interval

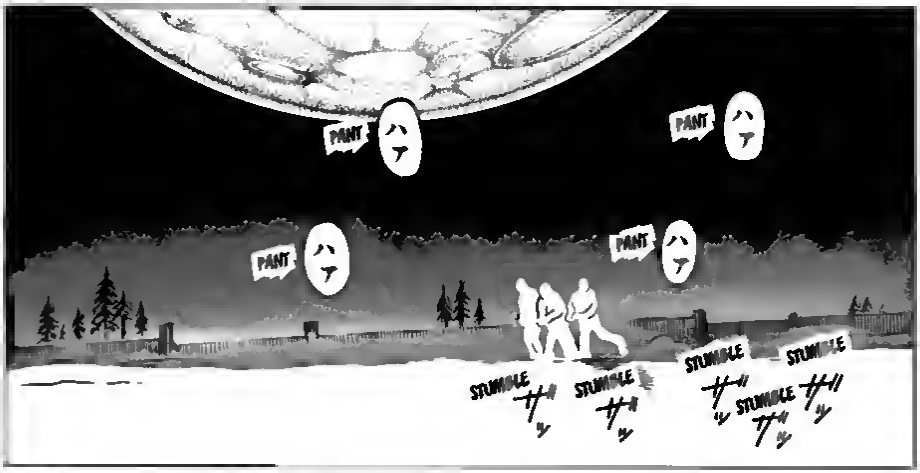

GATCH-K
I've got the report from Lab 3-
Boss!

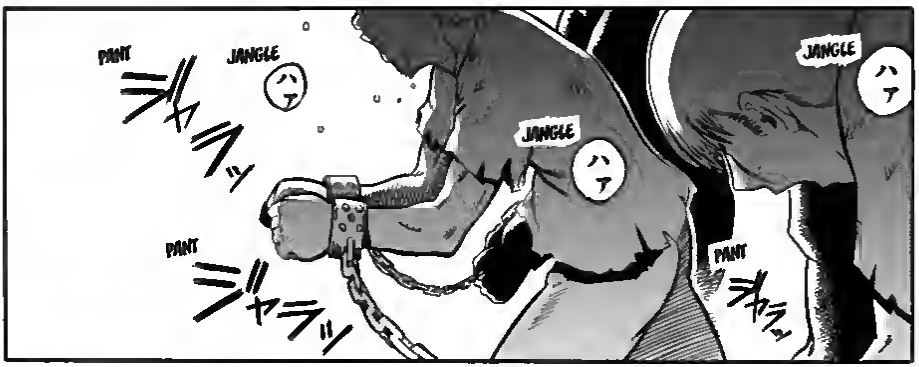


Boss, you should turn on more lights.

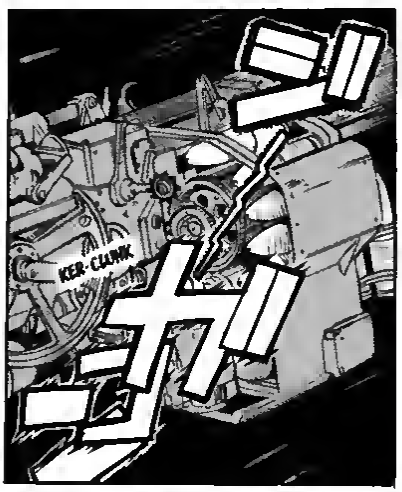
That's an official envelope from military command!
Boss?
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
...test subject 901...
SNEER
Let's continue the experiment...

PumpkinScissors

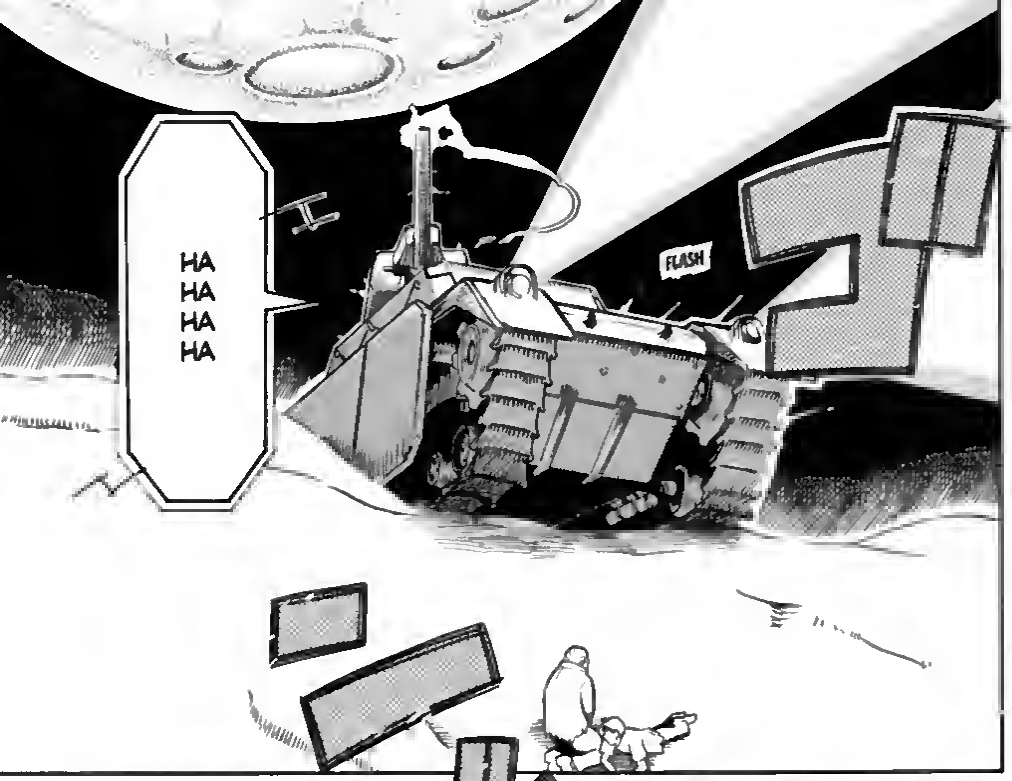

PANT
ハァ
PANT
ハァ
PANT
ハァ
PANT
ハァ
STUMBLE
STUMBLE
STUMBLE
STUMBLE


PANT
JANGLE
ハァ
JANGLE
ハァ
JANGLE
ハァ
PANT
PANT

Fire!

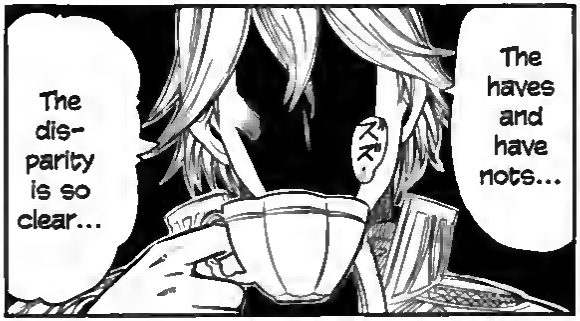

KER-CLUNK

Christ...
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
!!
BOMM
Keep running if you want the money!
What's the matter? We're not done yet?
WHRRR
WHRRR
WHRRR
WHRRR
WHRRR
WHRRR
WHRRR


HA
HA
HA
HA
FLASH

Hunting is a proper pastime for nobility.

Your aim has improved, my lord.


The haves and have nots...
ズズ
The disparity is so clear...

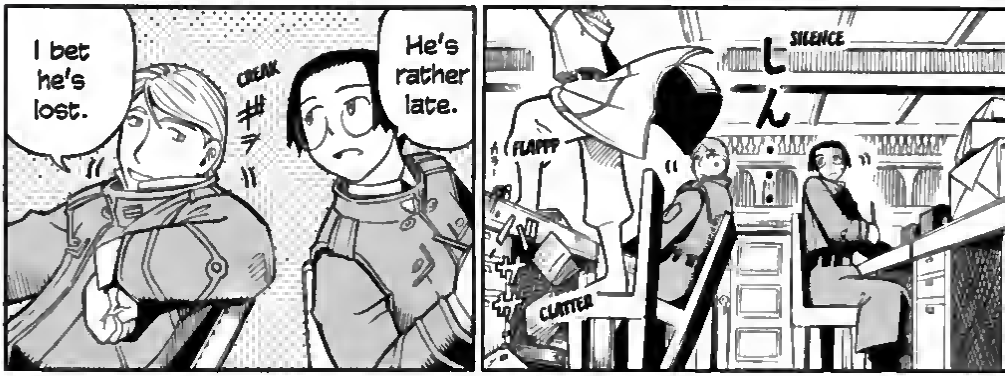
Sign of good times ahead!
...between the Empire and the Republic of Frost left a deep wound within the borders of the Empire.
The long war...

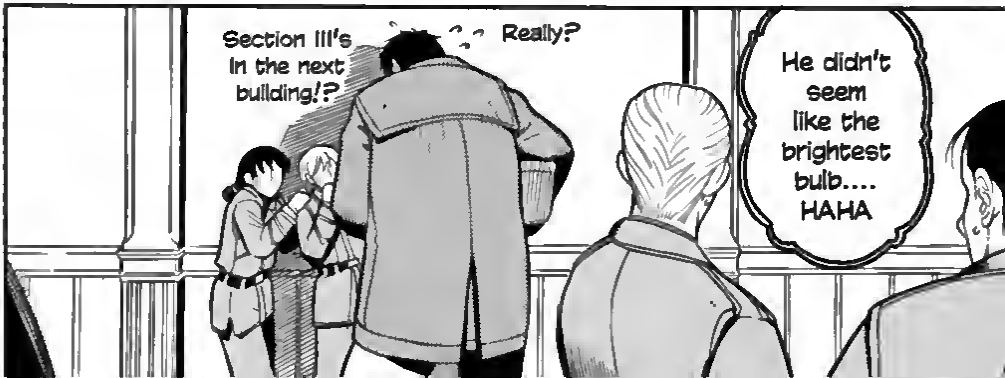
Dis-
ease...
Starva-
tion...
It's been
three yeare
since the
Thin Ice
Treaty
wee eigned.
Now,
the land
is...
Former
soldiere
heve
become
bandits...
...to repair the
destruction of
war...
...locked
in another
battle...

Episode 1 War Relief and Reconstruction Unit

What's wrong with Section III?
Keep my head up?
Somebody! Hey! I need help!
I've confirmed your appointment. So you're joining Section III, eh?
Keep your head up big guy!
It's nothing to be ashamed of.
A bomb would be an easier fix...
!
Did you find a bomb or somethin'?
What is it?
Hurry! This way!

JYA-KISH
How dare he show up late on his first day!
SECTION 3rd
CAPTAIN HUNKS
SWING
SWING
SWING
STOMP
He's late!


I bet he's lost.
CREAK
He's rather late.
SILENCE
FLAPPP
CLATTER


Section III's in the next building!?
Really?
He didn't seem like the brightest bulb.... HAHA

it's policy! Your blade's gotta be covered inside here...!
SHOVE
FLASH
This is not funny!
This is why our section gets no respect!
SKIDD
DASH
DASH
Leave them be.
What should we do?
Another fight!
DASH
DASH
DASH
DASH
Everyone, repeat after me!
ZA ZAK!
We will recite our code of conduct!

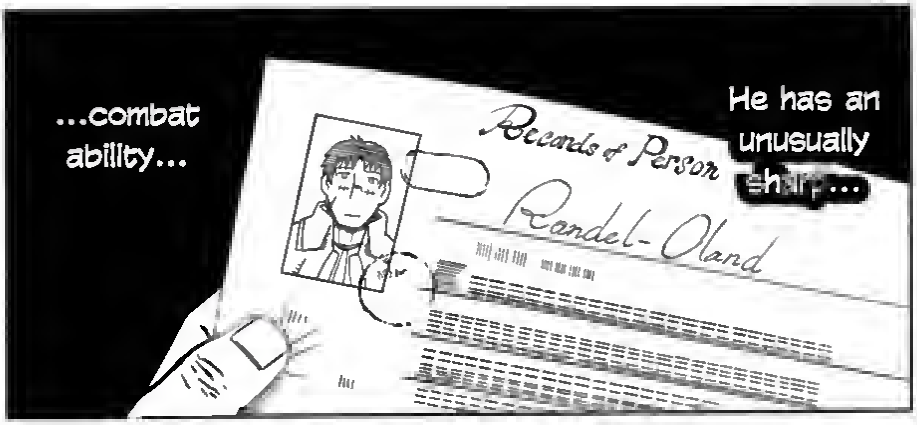
Boobs!
SLAM
...3, now!
We shall-
I need boobies!
Lieuten-ant! Great!
SLAP

An orphan!?
BURP
Sooo adorable!
You should have asked for formula...
the military is where the dough is at.
In this day and age,
It's expected.
That's a sorry excuse!
SLASH
I suppose this type of tragedy comes with the times...
SLURP
SLURP

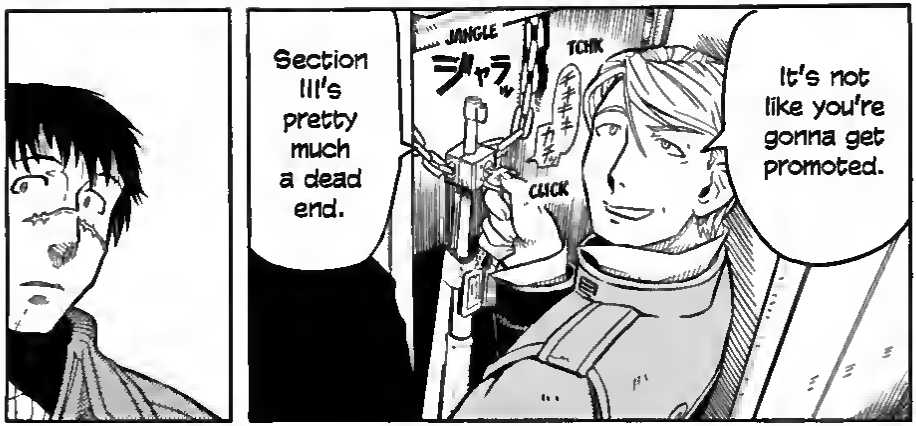
Nothing but excuses!
It's the times...
It's the world's fault...
SQUEEZE
It's a travesty to think a parent felt the need to abandon her child!
The Empire will return to a state where there will be no more reason for such sorry blatherings!
JYA-KISH
STOMP
Section III will see to the successful revival of the Empire!
What's the matter?
WAAAAAAAAAH

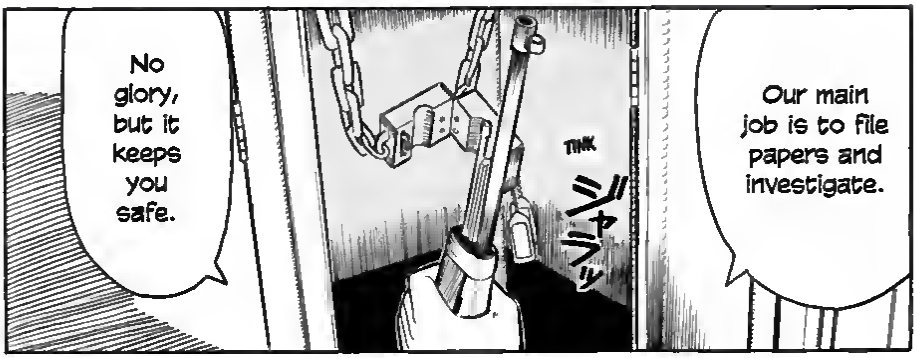
Why is the baby crying?
Don't just cry! Say something.
Uhm...
よし
Shhh Shhh
May I ask...
Right!
You've never met Sergeant Major.
I'm Randel Oland.
THRUST
it's a pleasure to meet you, Sergeant Major.
So tall...
B-BMP B-BMP B-BMP

Huh?
He seems so gentle, Corporal.
SHIVER
He doesn't seem like a soldier.
He's been active in combat.
I admit he doesn't come across as a soldier...
Oh no! The baby peed on me!?
He offered to help with the plan, and single-handedly destroyed the opponent's tank...
According to the report, they met in the village during the investigation of the dam...

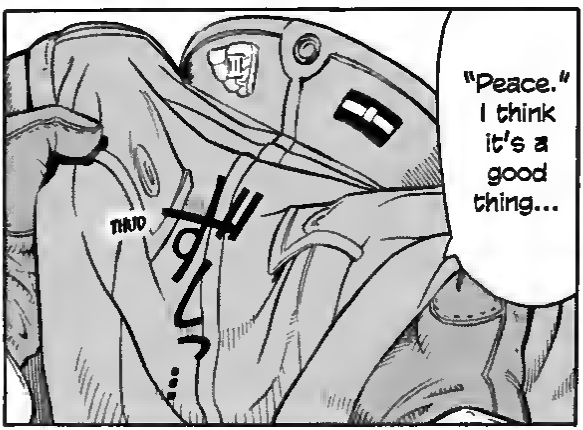

...combat ability...
Records of Person
Randel-Oland
He has an unusually sharp...

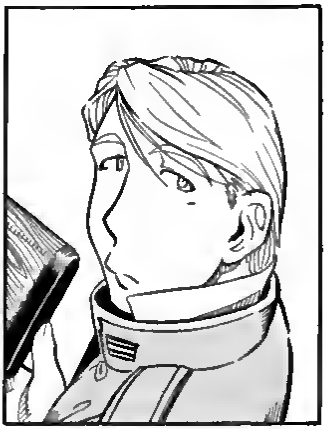
but you can relax, okay?
GATCH-K
ガチャッ
So...
The lieutenant's a bit hard core,
SECTION 1st EQUIPMENT ROOM
33rd!


Section III's pretty much a dead end.
JANGLE
ジャラッ
TCHK
チキキキ
カチッ
CLICK
It's not like you're gonna get promoted.


No glory, but it keeps you safe.
THK
ジャラッ
Our main job is to file papers and investigate.

I don't mind.
We're known as the Relaxed and Peaceful Section III.
Don't get bummed out. Just work hard!


THUD
ドサッ
"Peace." I think it's a good thing...



I was happy to hear of its existence.
Section III, Pumpkin Scissors.
War Relief and Reconstruction Unit.
GRIP
ギリ…
……
Really happy...
It's not like we're superheroes, ya know?
Thanks!
Lieutenant's the only fanatic we need around here, okay?
Hey now...

Your lantern...
We'll kick back and work.
PAT
You really are tall...
901-ATT
What was it called again?
Your former unit...
That's the past. You're my subordinate now.
CACKLE
Subordinate!
I like the sound of that!
You already have one, right?

Don't pass it on to the brat.
Be careful!
SNIFF
I might be comin' down with a cold...
SNEEZE
Stecchin? She doesn't count.
What are you looking into?
Looking over all the listings of army units and personnel during the time of the cease-fire.
...listed anywhere.
901-ATT isn't...

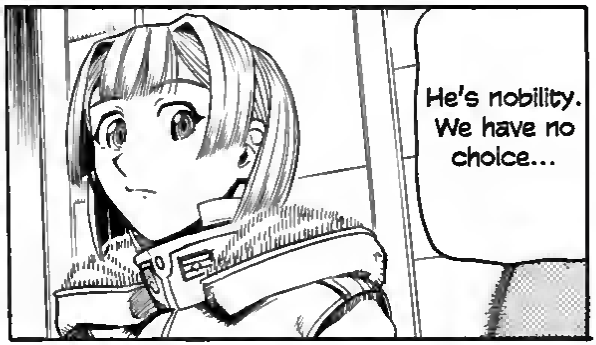
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
Did he belong to one of the "Invisible Nine"? I doubt it...
So uh... Wal... uh...
Viscount Wolkins!
Can't you remember his name?
We're going to audit his administration, I take it?
VROOOOOM
We received a petition stating that
the condition there is degenerating rapidly.
Is he wanted for tax evasion?
VROOOOOM

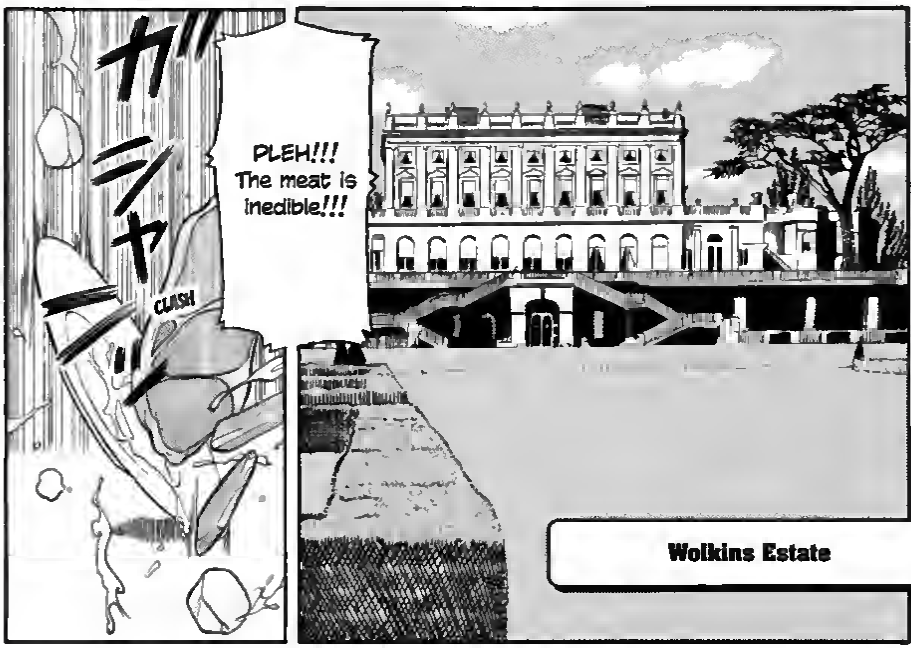
GRAB
Cake-walk!
I'm sure this will be easy!
Don't let your guard down!
Dumb-ass!
Something is about to happen...
My neck is tingling...
I swear! This will be simple!
VROOM
I can see his estate...

The city's awfully quiet.
Mmmhmm
What can I say?
.....
Well, we should keep looking.
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
Little food or work around...
Lately, it's been like that everywhere.
ゴゴゴゴ
CLUNK
There seems to be more to the story...
.....

CLUNKK
CLUNKK
CLUNKK
A funeral procession...
Hmmm...
For three people?
Did they die together?
What happened?
They lost the game.

Grandpa, shhh!
The viscount's insane!


He's nobility. We have no choice...


カニャニャニー
CLASH
PLEH!!! The meat is inedible!!!
Wolkins Estate

My lord ...
It's not cooked!
Last night you asked for rare...
CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP
I'll prepare another plate right away!
JOLT
Well, uh...
GLARE

.....
....UH!
I'm sure you're not getting enough to eat lately.
SPLAT
Go ahead. Eat.

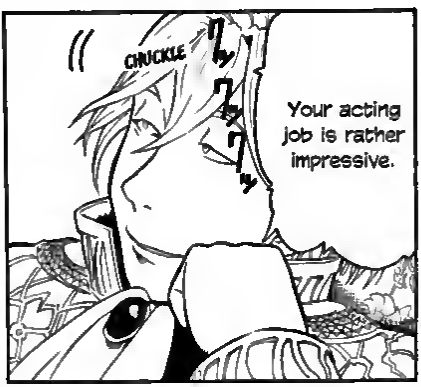
GULP
Please, the lord is currently dining—
SLAM
Is he inside here?
I need to see the viscount! Where is he?
JUMP
We're Imperial Army State Section III, aka Pumpkin Scissors!
SMACKK
JYA-KICSH
Repent, you malicious scum!

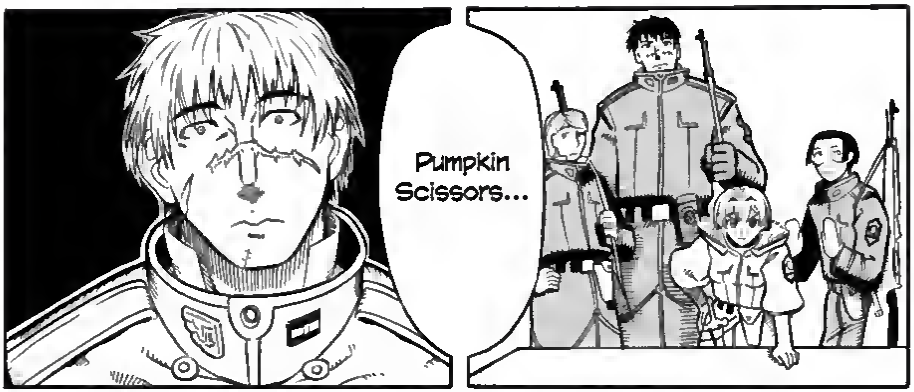
ボボ
WHISPER WHISPER
Oh, those people...
SMIRK
Viscount...
RISE
Section III...?
Pumpkin...?
SHAKE SHAKE
Please... Calm down, Lieutenant!
SHAKE SHAKE
Your job is to protect your subjects!!!!
Bastard!
I heard from the villagers!
SLAMM
I heard that you were using the village men...
...as "prey" for some bizarre form of hunting.

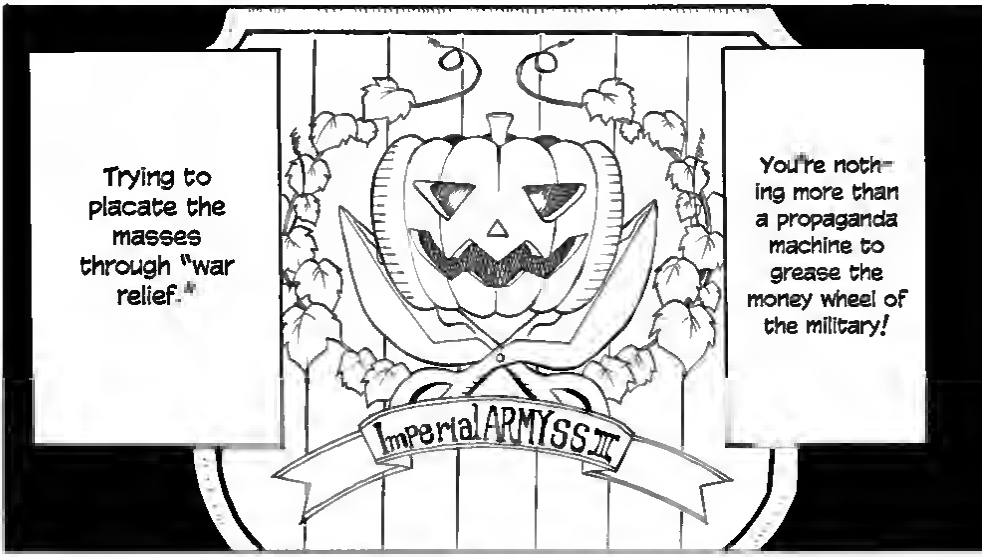
It's a game.
Any man who survives wins a fortune!
Not that anyone has won yet...

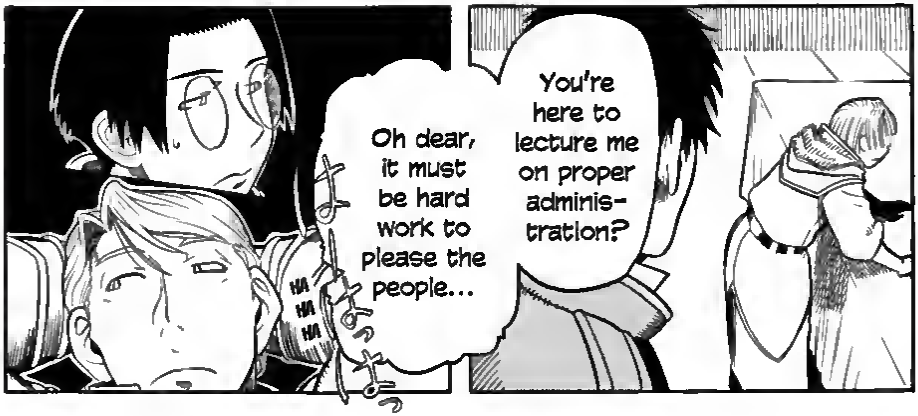
You sheltered, worthless dictator!
Just because you had the blind luck to be born a noble
does not give you the right to treat people like objects!

Haslow is a former tank driver in the army.
He's full of entertaining information.


CHUCKLE
Your acting job is rather impressive.

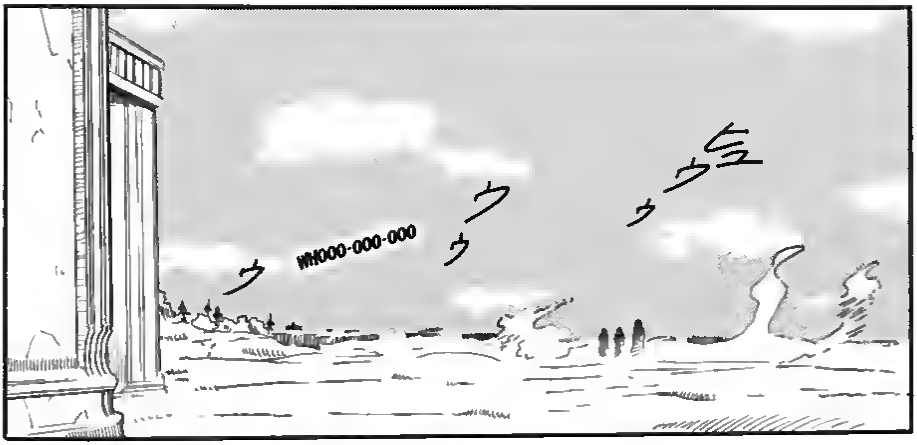

Pumpkin Scissors...

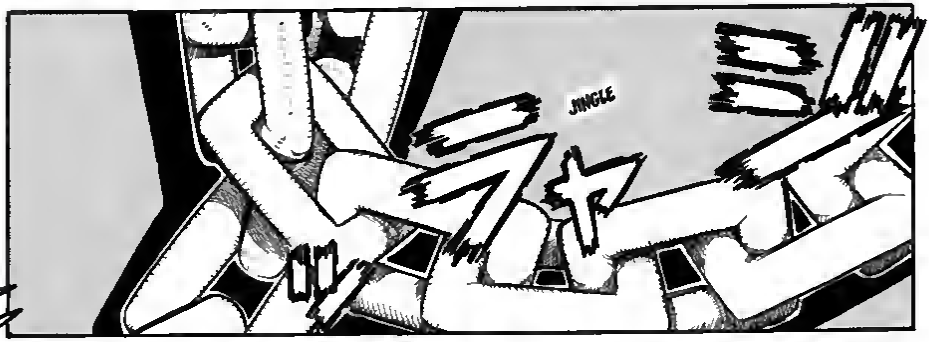

Trying to placate the masses through "war relief."
Imperial ARMYSS III
You're nothing more than a propaganda machine to grease the money wheel of the military!


Oh dear, it must be hard work to please the people...
HA HA HA
You're here to lecture me on proper administration?

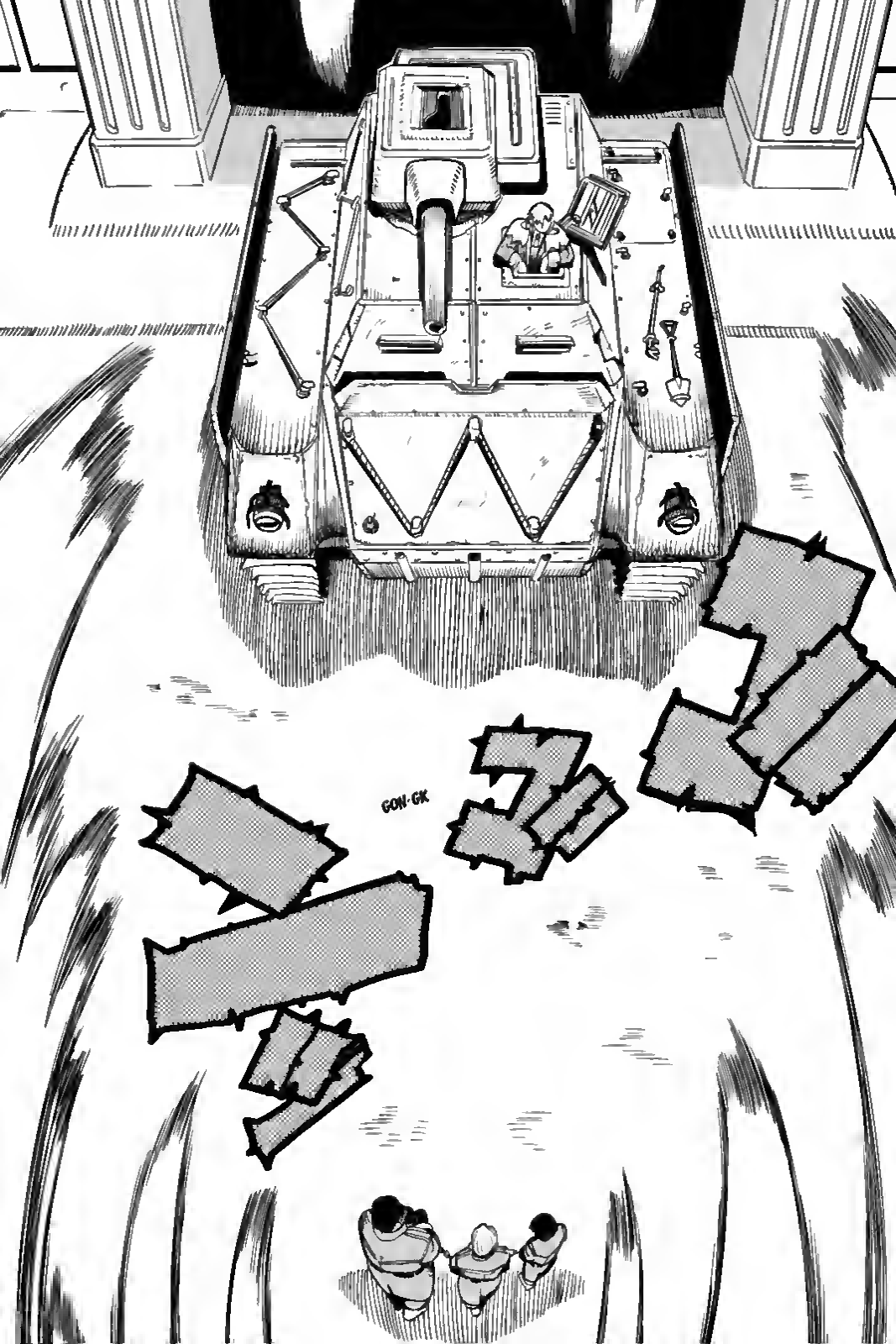
STABB
Why isn't anyone speaking up...? Why!?
You vulgar monster... taking advantage of the chaos...
CLICK
CLICK
You're charged with crimes against humanity!
You are to be expelled from your estate immediately!
Viscount Wolkins!

SNAP
I was going along with your game, but, oh well...
.....
CLICKK
You can be my next prey!
I'm done with you.


WHOOO-OOO-OOO

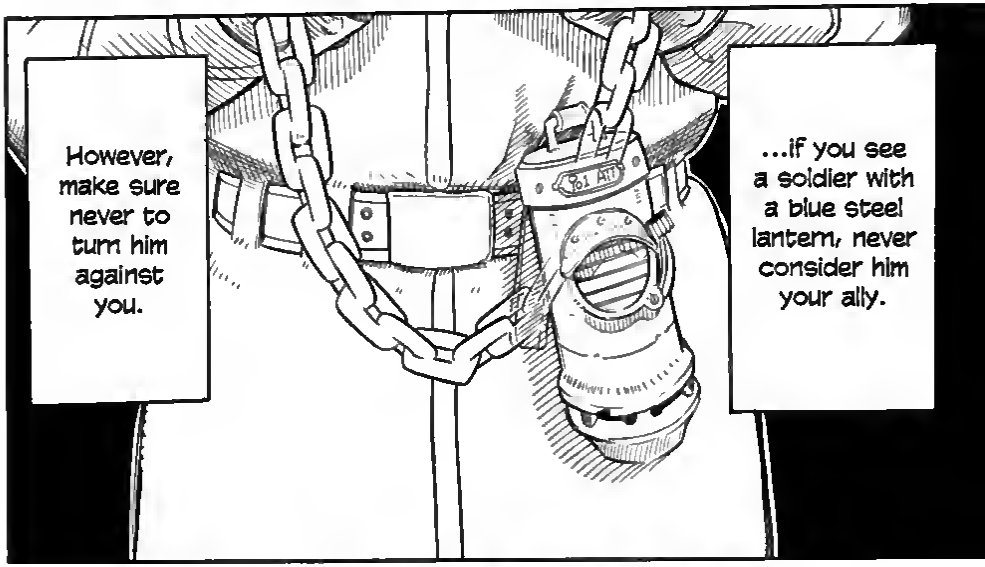

JINGLE

WREEM
WREEM
WREEM
WREEM
WREEM
WREEM
WREEM
WREEM
Why does it have to be like this?
I agree...

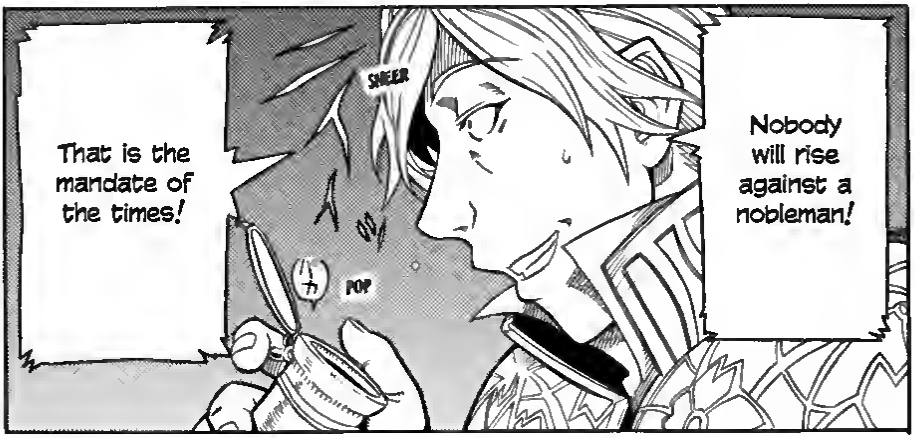

GON·GK

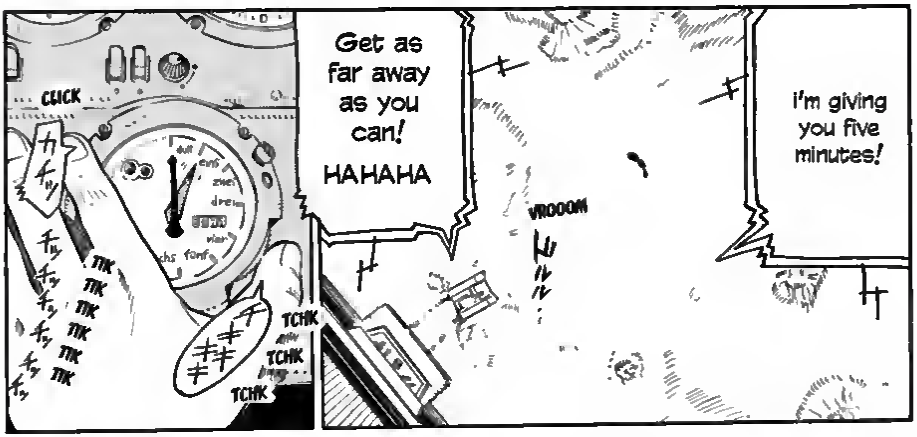
Are you enjoying the scenery, Lieutenant?
HEHEHE HAHAHA
You shall get an unobstructed view of my game!
バタン
SLAM
Soldiers for a change! HAHA
It's about time we got prey worth hunting.
……
……
カタカタ
SHAKE
SHAKE

Tank drivers have always known that...
What's wrong?


However, make sure never to turn him against you.
...if you see a soldier with a blue steel lantern, never consider him your ally.

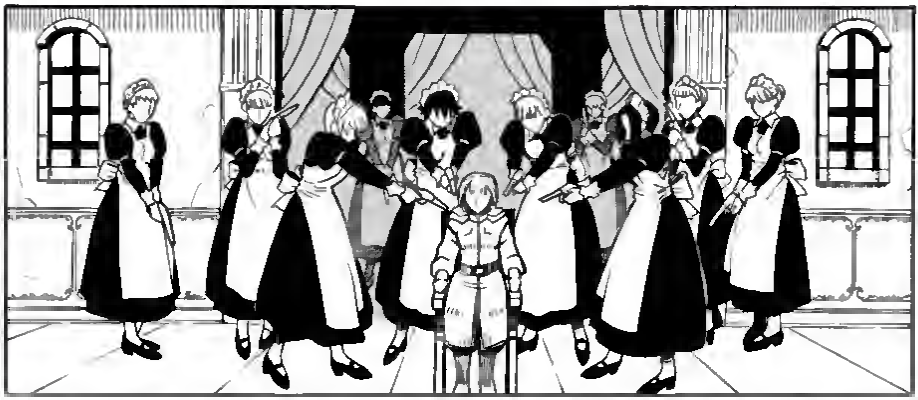
GRRR
イラ…
Don't waste my time.
I don't wanna hear your fairy tales.
Shut up!
They're—
The lantern is a furnace that ignites his soul...

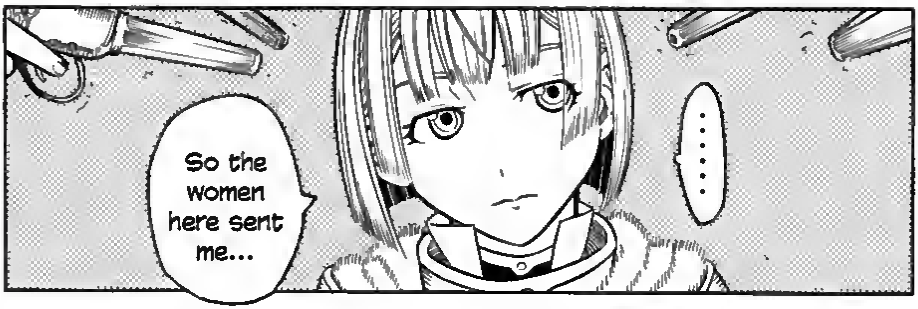

That is the mandate of the times!
SHEER
POP
Nobody will rise against a nobleman!


CLICK
TIK
TCHK
Get as far away as you can!
HAHAHA
VROOOM
I'm giving you five minutes!

We're one big target if we remain chained together!
Run away?
FUMBLE
JANGLE

People call you the "Stockade Houdini" for a reason...
You delinquent!
Hee Hee
Ta-Daaa!
I ain't planning to die.
HA!
Or let anyone else, for that matter!
You're first, big guy!
No, you go first...
So, the problem's gonna be...
R-R-RUMBLE
After all, you're my first subordinate.
CLIK CLIK




So the women here sent me...
.....

I don't understand.
VROOOOM
ドルルルル
Why don't you point the gun at him?

JOLT
B-BAMP
...the petition, right?

We're commoners! We don't dare...
He's a nobleman!
Corporal...
about what the viscount said...
TWITCH
ヒュウウ
WHOOOSH
You say you don't care...
...control where we're born.
Nor the system or other people.
Section III is part of the military.
Nobody can...

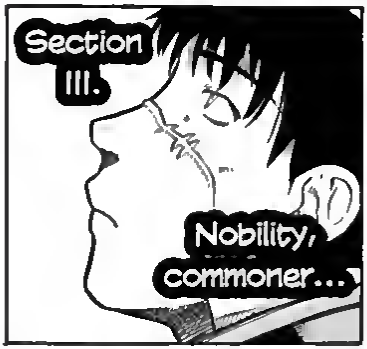
I am Alice L. Malvin.
The Malvin family is one of the thirteen Appointed Families, and I am their third daughter.

See?
You can point a gun at nobility.

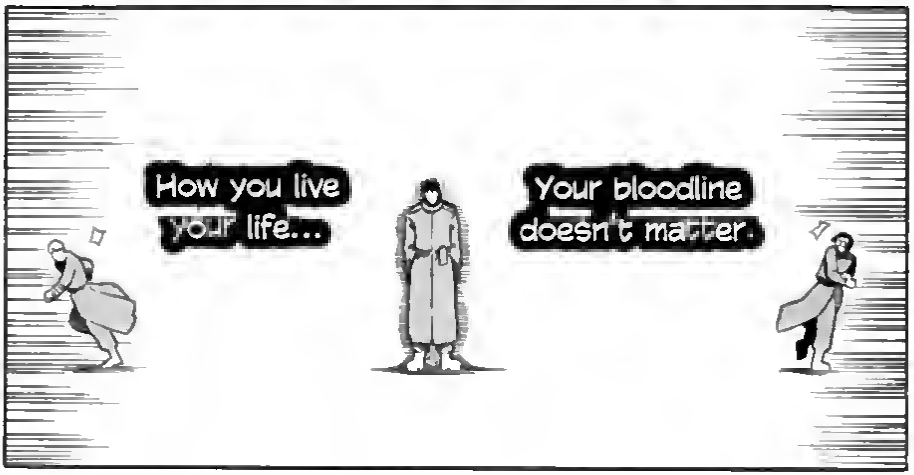
What?
You're a noble prin-cess!?
You're...

Null
TIK
eins
zwei
Time's up!
?
FLAKE
パラ…
CLANG
HEH HEH HEH
Who will I hunt down first…
PLINTK
TINK
What the hell is going on!!!

Shoot for your honor!
The bullets may not make a difference...
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
JYA-KUSH
STOMP
DILLOW


Section III.
Nobility, commoner...

Now! Run!
Lieutenant!
JINGLE
POP
CLINK


How you live your life...
Your bloodline doesn't matter.

...is more important!
CLIK
PUSH
CLIK
FLASH
FIRE!
You're not getting away!
BLAST
BOOM

Corporal!
I got 'em with the first shot!
We should confirm the impact.
HEEHEE! Did you see that!?
"They...

...march among
the midnight glow."

Now!
He's coming!
Stop it with your boogey-man crap!?
Fire!
FIRE!
BWHOOM
THUDD

WHOOSH
パッ
SLICE
スリ
SKIDDDD
HAAAAAAH
We got 'em!
This time, for sure!

Another round!

Haslow! What the hell is that thing!?
Fire!

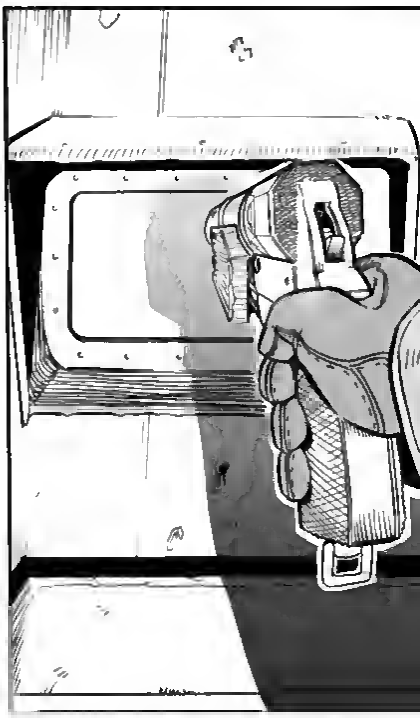
EHEHE
Some kind of primeval monster?
What the hell is he?

SLUMP
ポス

ドドドDILLOW
ミュウウウ…
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
パチ
パチ
They will never stop their march...
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
ズズ
ズズ
CRAWL
ズ…ズ…
Their eyes may burn to dust, their arms may crumble...

A suicidal determination to achieve point-blank range.
STOMP
They are led by the will-o'-the-wisp...
FLICKER
Their trigger gives birth to death...
Their footsteps devoid of life...
ZA
...ザッ...
901 Anti-Tank Trooper.
It's a fairy tale from the battlefield...

The Gespenster Jägers!! Death March Troopers...



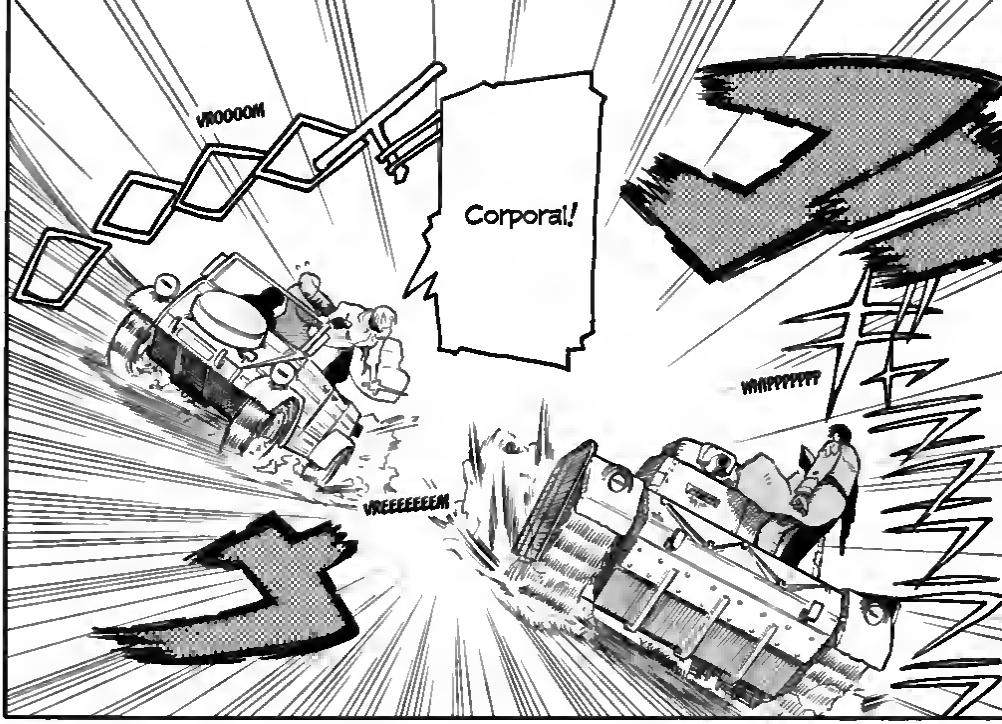
TUG

CLANGG
THUD
VRRRR
VROOOOM
SLAM
SLIDDDDE
SNAP
CRAKKK

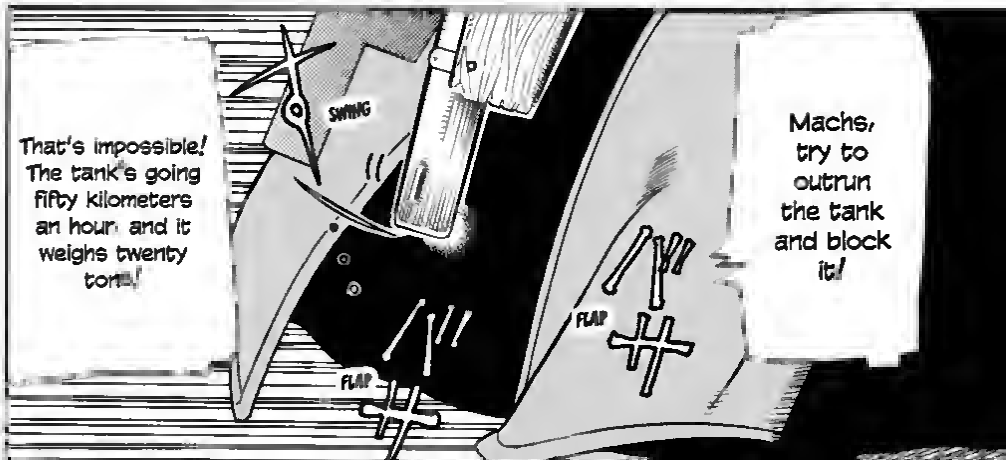
GA
GA
GA
GA
GA
VIBRRRR
KLIKK
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
Another round...
I need another round...
VROOM
VROOM
SKIDD
CRAWL
CRAWL
RRRRUMBLE
All this time...
There's no point... I can't hit him.

RIPP
...that was running away...
I've only shot at prey...!
FLAP
FLAP
WHOOOSH
RIPPPPP

I got it! You win! HAHAHA
CH-K
SHAPP
.....
CLI-KK
CRANK
I said the game's over!!! Right? HA HA HA...
VROOM
I'm a human being, not an animal!
Don't shoot me, please!


VROOOOM
Corporal!
WHIPPPPPPP
VREEEEEEEM

Are you okay? Don't worry! We're coming for you!
JOLT


That's impossible! The tank's going fifty kilometers an hour and it weighs twenty tons!
SWING
FLAP
FLAP
Machs, try to outrun the tank and block it!

GA GA
GA GA
Oh...
God...
DAMMIT!!!!!
PUDDLE
SIZZLE SIZZLE
CLANK
STAGGER
R-R-RUMBLE
Machs, closer!
I won't let him die!
Lieu-ten-ant!?
He's gonna fall!

LEAP
-EUH

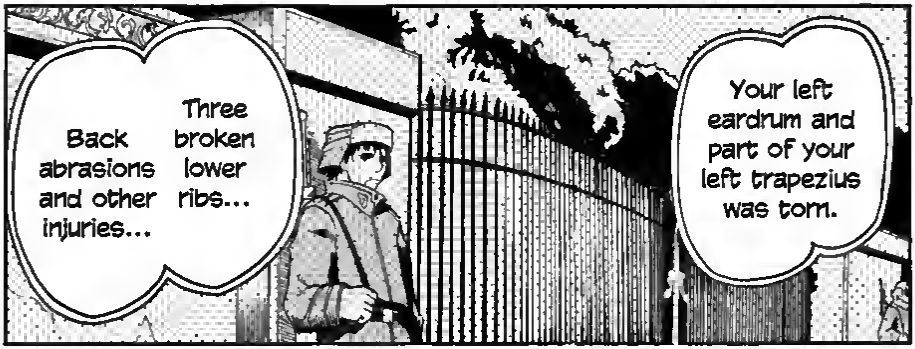
Lieu-
tenant!
Big
guy!
VROOOM
FLOPPP
JUMPP
!
GAGA
CLANG
CLANG
Machs!
I got
it!

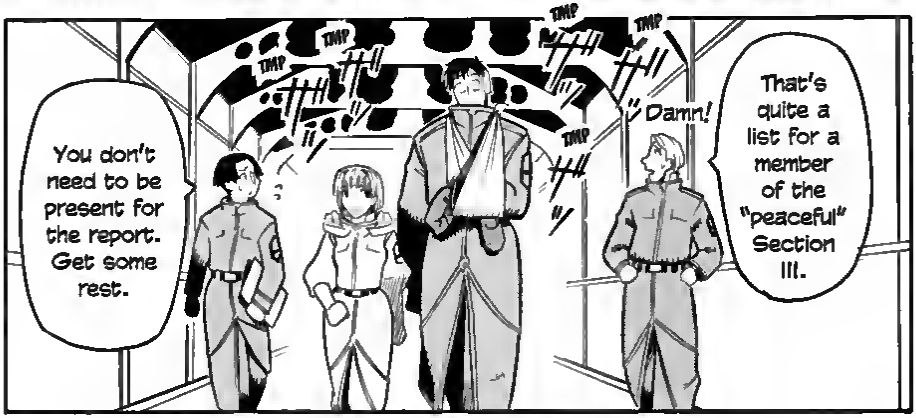
SLUMP
That hurt...
SKREEECH
We made it...
BILLLOW

FSHOOOO
FLICK
Uh...
mmm...
GRAB
I'm alive.
Corp—
JOLT
No...
Your back...
You tried to break my fall. I'm sorry...

PANT
はあっ
DRAG
ずり
PANT
する…
はあっ
DRAG
!
シュウウ
FIZZLE
SWING
You bastards…
You think you won!? Huh!!

Men won't get sick?
The bandits will go away?
People won't starve to death anymore?
If you get rid of me, what does that accomplish?
is it gonna change the world?
SIZZLE
FLUTTER
POP
You're nothing but—
Don't... shoot! I was wrong! Please don't shoot!
Be quiet, you moron!
We know that!


Back abrasions and other injuries...
Three broken lower ribs...
Your left eardrum and part of your left trapezius was torn.

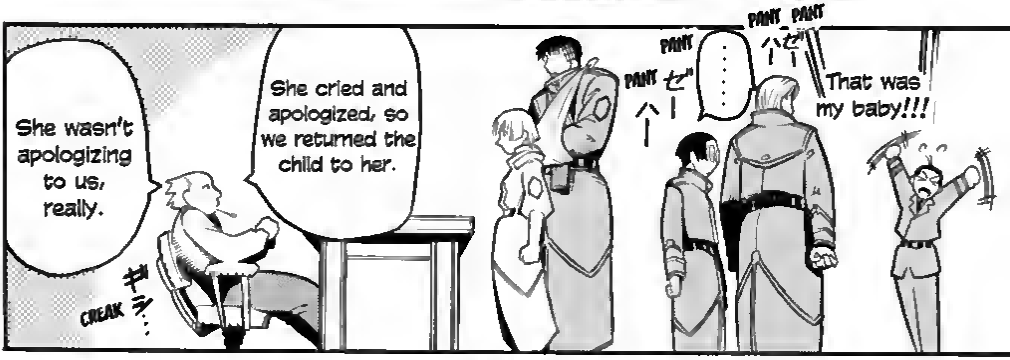

You don't need to be present for the report. Get some rest.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
Damn!
That's quite a list for a member of the "peaceful" Section III.

...if the world isn't gonna change ...
I just don't want to suffer through it...

I don't mind being injured during combat.

When you're tall, can't you see that far ahead?
You're no different than the viscount!
The world!?
KTZ
Oh...
The baby...!
SOB
The baby...
SNIFF

HUFF PUFF
HUFF PUFF
The mother showed up?
PANT
PANT

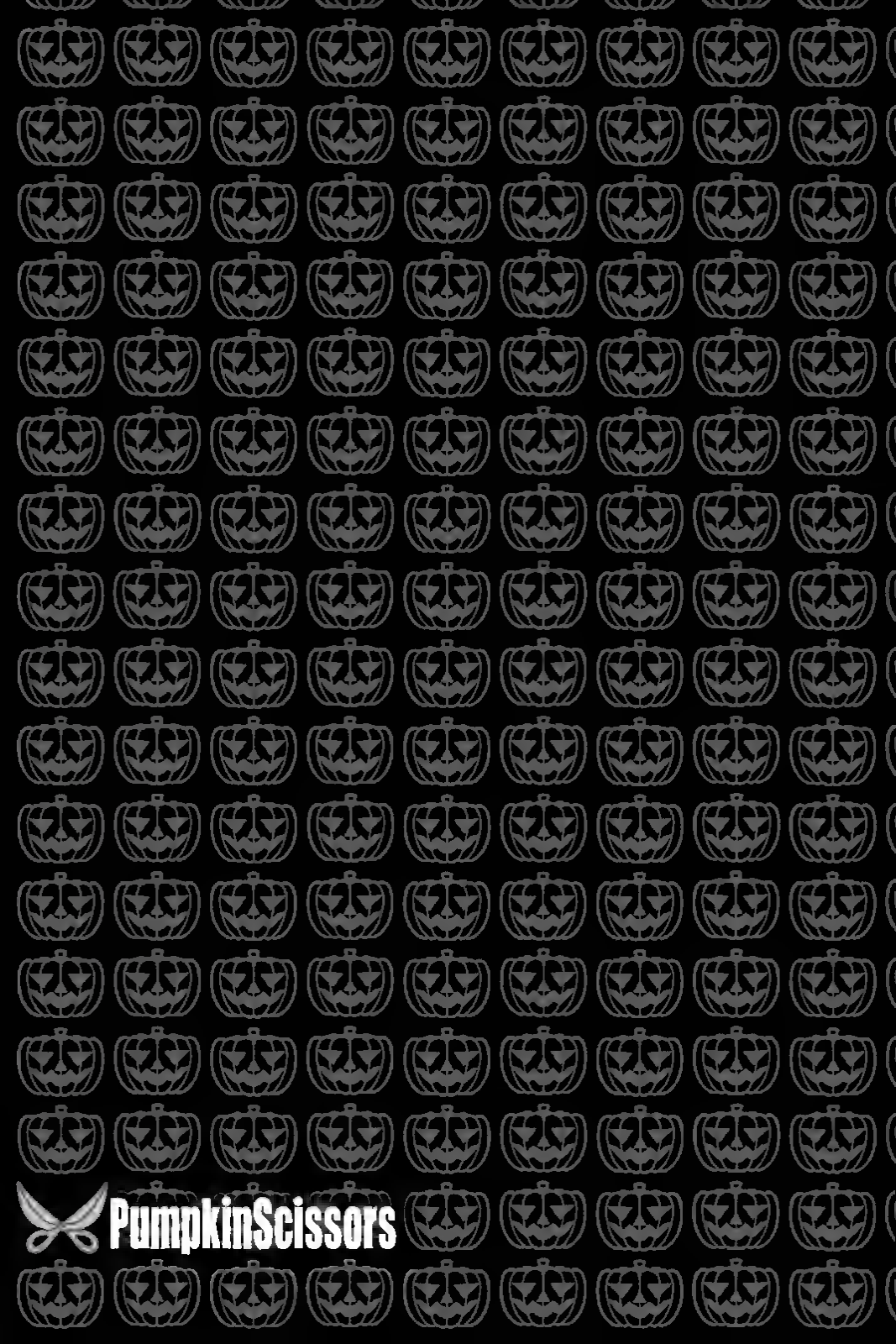

She wasn't apologizing to us, really.
She cried and apologized, so we returned the child to her.
CREAK
PANT
PANT
PANT PANT
That was my baby!!!

There used to be war...
She was apologizing to her baby.
TMP

The reason to fight...
You'll find your reasons there...
Don't look far ahead. Look at the things in front of you.

However, there is a unit dedicated to war relief called...
The long war encouraged cruelty and shattered society...

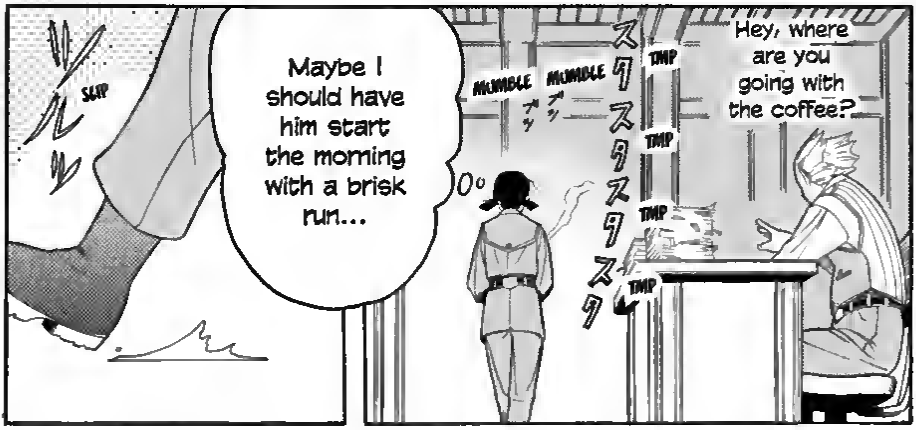
#1／END


PumpkinScissors

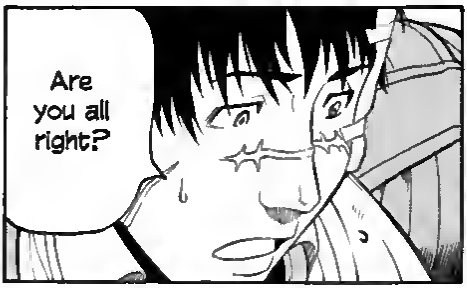
Interval

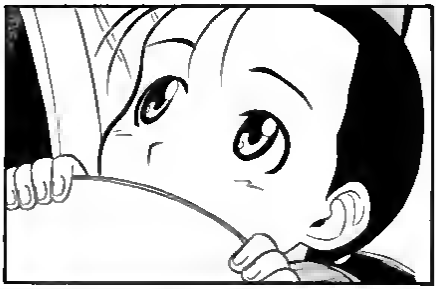
Captain
2nd Lieutenant
Warrant Officer
Sergeant Major
Corporal
Wait! I just realized...
I have an underling starting today!?
Merc's my friend. He doesn't count!

Ma'am. Yes ma'am!
When you talk to me, "ma'am" should be the first word outta your mouth!
I'm feeling a sudden rush of power!


SLIP
Maybe I should have him start the morning with a brisk run...
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
スタスタスタ
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
Hey, where are you going with the coffee?

Whoooa!
FWOFF


Are you all right?

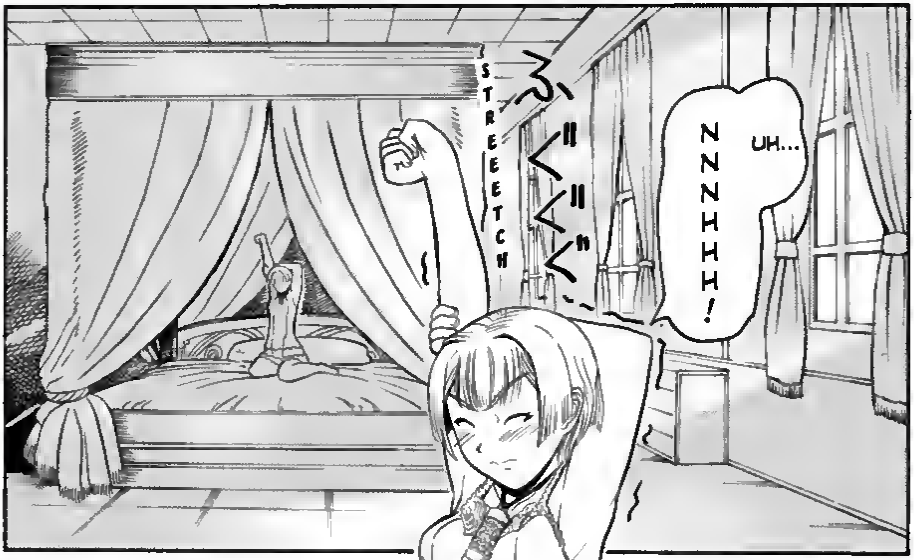


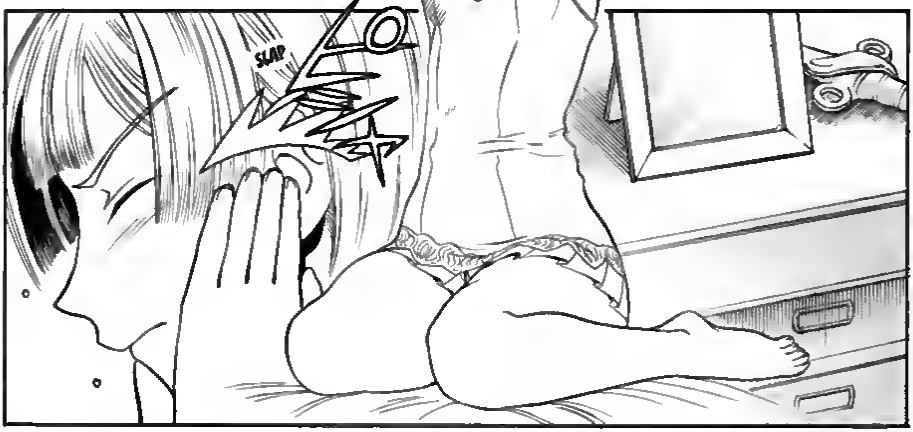
My documents!
NEXT

Sure ...?
I'll put the brisk run on hold!

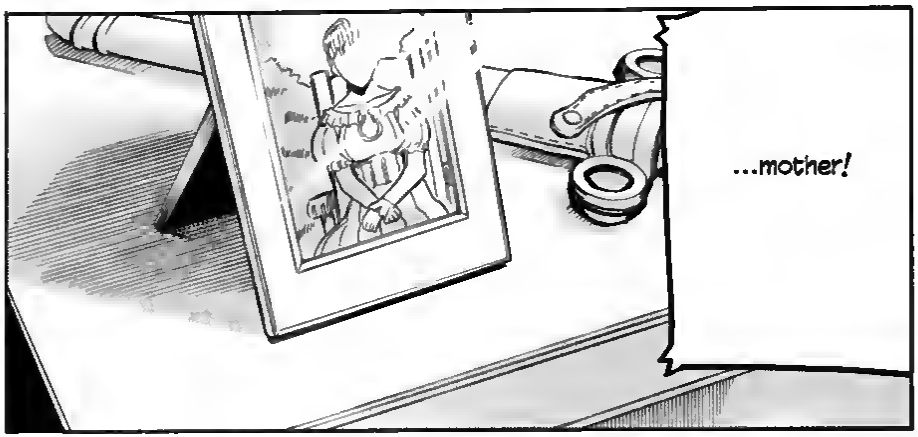
PumpkinScissors

チチチ
TWITTER
チュン
CHIRP
CHIRP


STREETCH
UH...
NNNHH!


SLAP

Good morning...
SALUTE


...mother!

How long are you...
SLURP
ズズ...
...planning to play soldier?
Why are you bringing that subject up again?
UGH
む
The Malvin family has a long military history.
My involvement is very appropriate in that regard.
There are more suitable positions for nobility.
instead, you chose some trivial unit...
With all due respect, Father...

The nobility has the obligation to look after the commoners.
SERIOUS
I take great pride in the war relief mission bestowed upon Imperial Army State Section III!

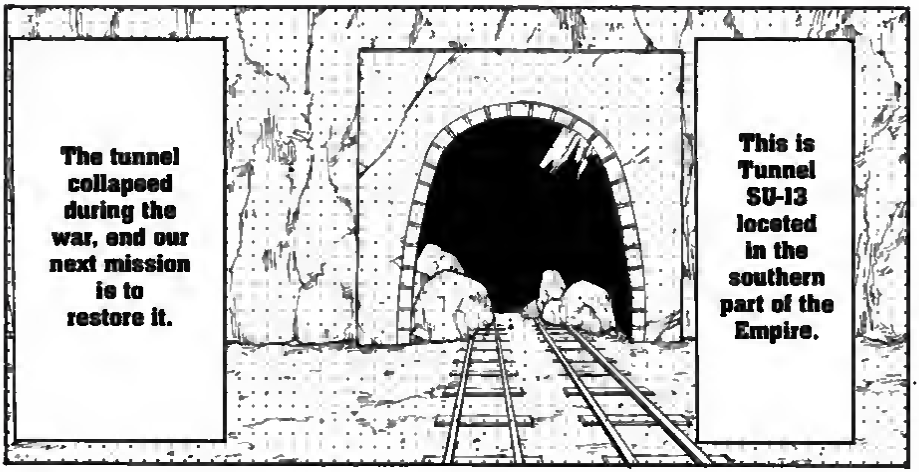
Make ourselves more accessible?
How meaningless...

NOD
NOD
We should make ourselves more accessible.

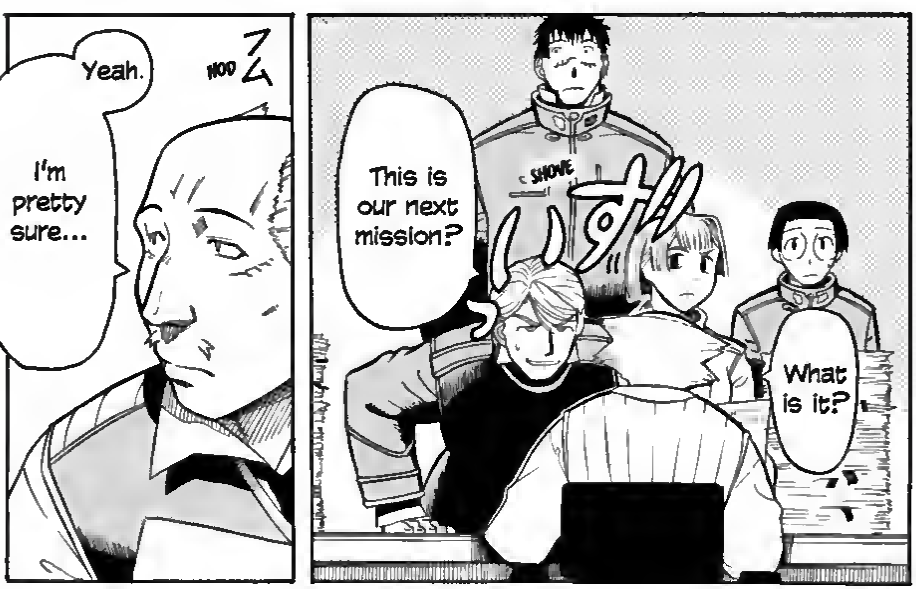
...during a time of rampant poverty.
How hypocritical to hear you say those words as you stuff your face...

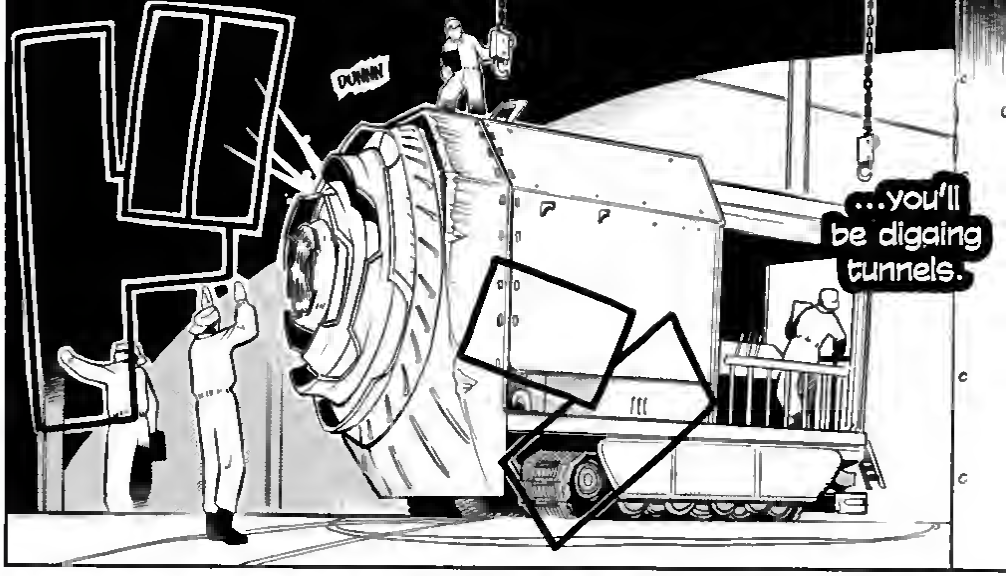
Oh...
What?
Lieutenant's late!?
OWWWW
Not every day, damn you!
I'm sorry I'm late!
Oreldo, you're always late!
Really? I ran my butt off for nothing!
The hard-core lieuten-ant?
HUFF PUFF
HUFF PUFF
ぜーハー
ぜーハー
ANNA

Commoners don't have access to personal coaches, right?
Oh no! Here's water!
HUFF PUFF
SWAY
Did you walk from your estates!?
ゼーハー
STAGGER
よろ…
Lieutenant Alice, what happened?
Do commoners drink water?
Of course we do! Don't be stupid!
She lives away from the city, I believe...
That's a ten plus kilometer trip!
I wonder what happened...
……
GULP
うむ…

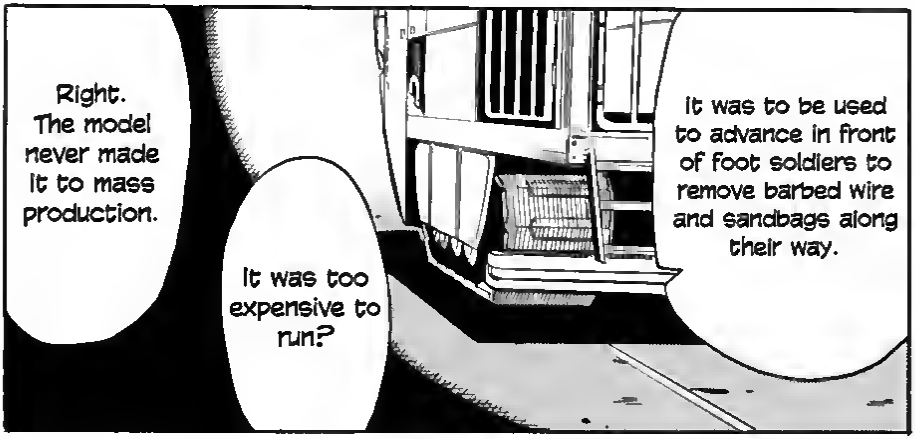

The tunnel collapsed during the war, and our next mission is to restore it.
This is Tunnel SU-13 located in the southern part of the Empire.

Wait a minute!
The documents regarding budget and deadlines will be arriving...
Also, the heavy equipment...


Yeah.
NOD
I'm pretty sure...
This is our next mission?
SHOVE
What is it?


DUNNN
...you'll be digging tunnels.

...Automatic Impact Machine Prototype.
This looks to be an...
It's called a Shield Car.
SUCKS...
A drill? I thought we gathered information...


Right. The model never made it to mass production.
It was too expensive to run?
It was to be used to advance in front of foot soldiers to remove barbed wire and sandbags along their way.

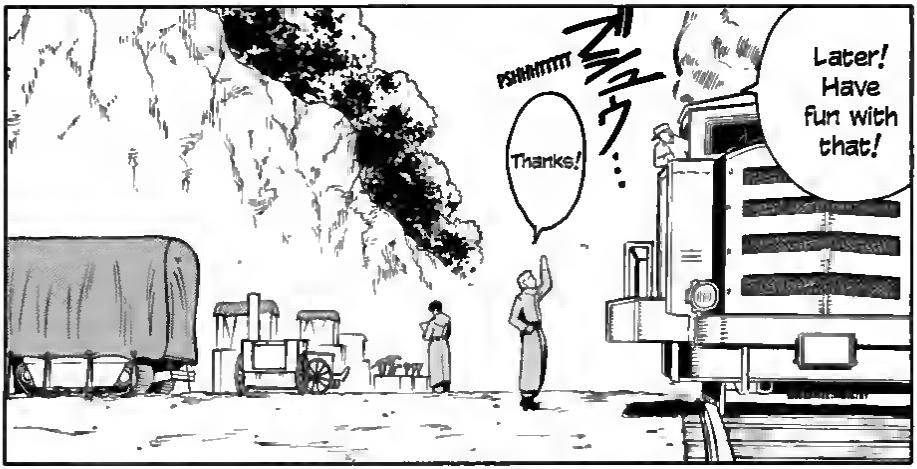
THUDD
Here we go.
JYWUU
A diesel train will carry the machine to the site.

We'll be in charge of inventory and distribution of tools.
Actually, local villagers will do most of the construction.
All this equipment for four people?

GROWWL
Working alongside one another will help forge a bond between people...
We'll also participate!
NOD
this will be a good opportunity.
Actually,

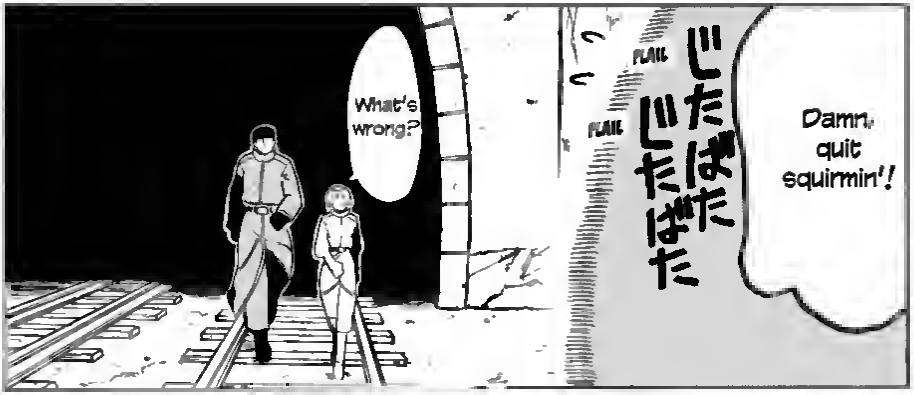
Did you hear... that?
.....
I couldn't help it.
A little bit.
You didn't eat?
Uh... um...
SCRATCH
...while I shoveled food into my mouth without a care...
CLUNKT
CLUNKT
CLUNKT
CLUNKT
The rest of the country was starving...

I was so wretched...
CLUNKT
CLUNKT
CLUNKT

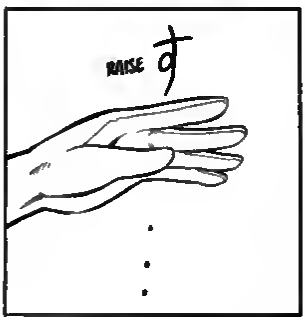

PSHHHHHH
Thanks!
Later! Have fun with that!

See, it's ready to cave in...
CRUMBLE CRUMBLE
Freeze, you brat!

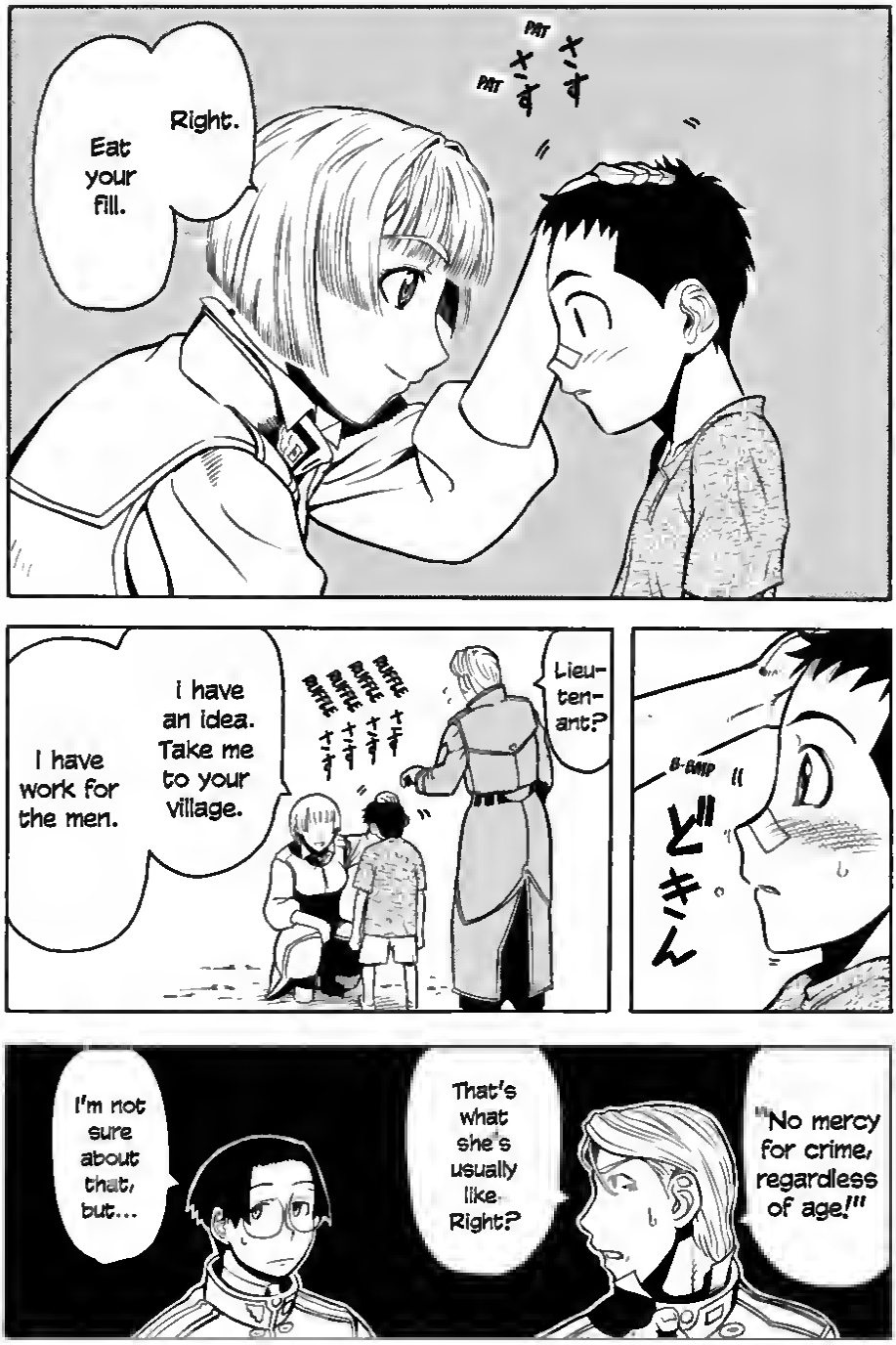
Can't we just use the machine to dig right through?
We have to be very careful.
SU-13 Tunnel

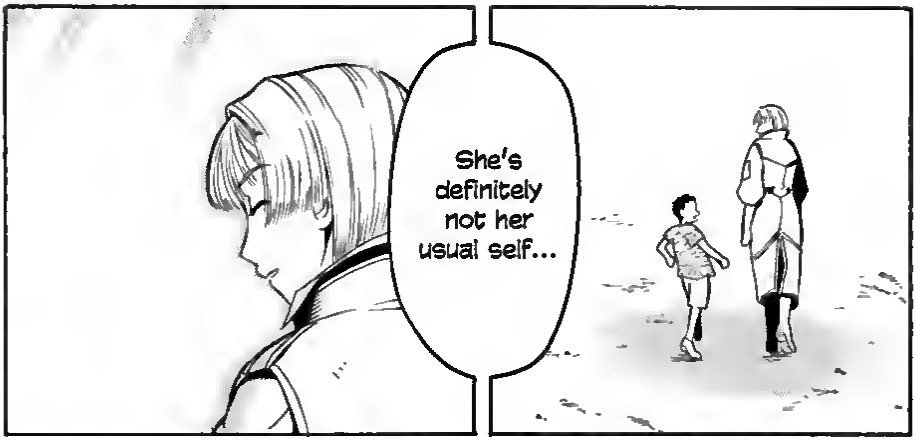

What's wrong?
じたばた
FLAIL
じたばた
FLAIL
Damn, quit squirmin'!

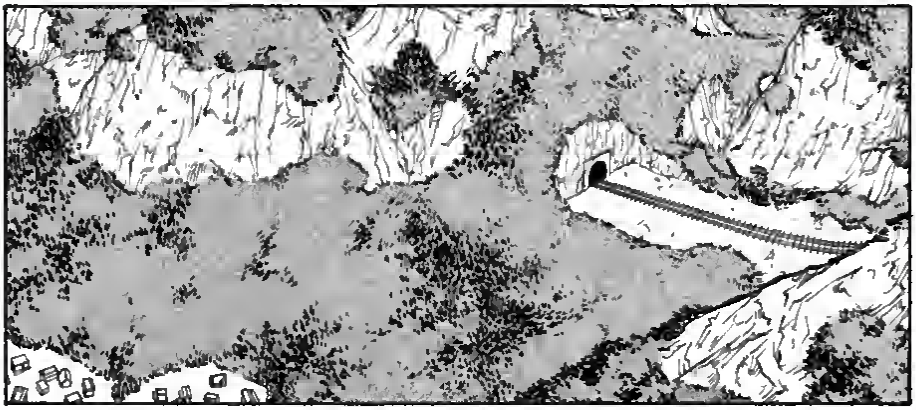
He was stealing bread for the workers...
He must be from a local village.
Lemme go!

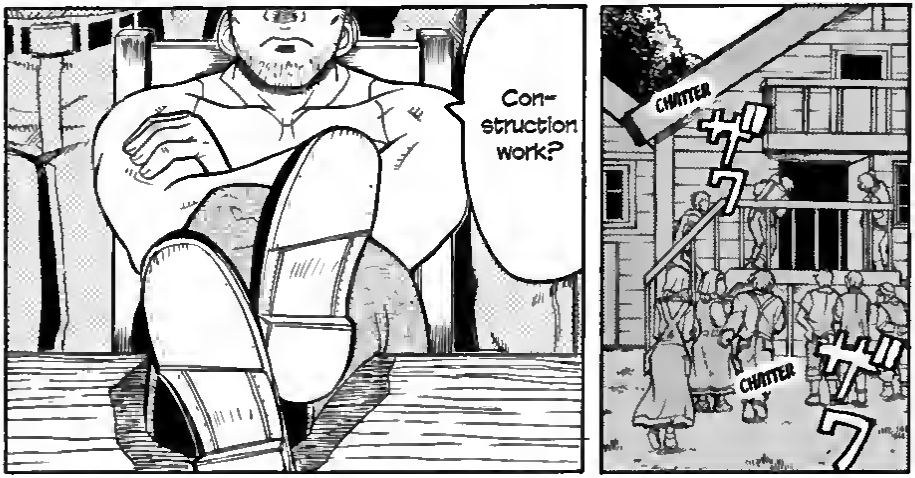

RAISE
す

Soldiers get all the good food!
I just wanna little bit!


Right.
Eat your fill.
PAT
さす
PAT
さす
Lieu-ten-ant?
I have an idea. Take me to your village.
I have work for the men.
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
さす
さす
さす
さす
B-BMP
どきん
I'm not sure about that, but...
That's what she's usually like. Right?
"No mercy for crime, regardless of age!"


She's definitely not her usual self...



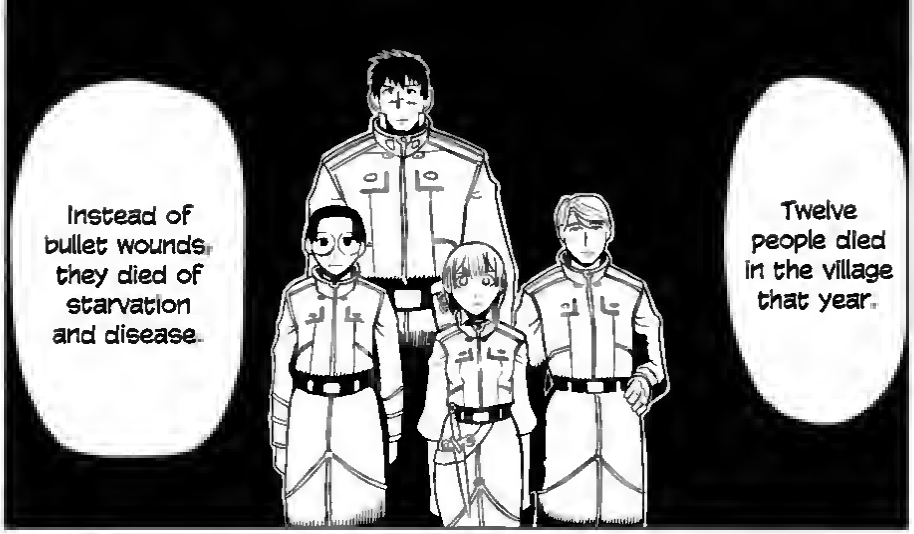

Con-struction work?
CHATTER
CHATTER

DUUUUHHH!
Not interested.
Why...!
This area was a battlefield.
Five years ago...
You said we needed work because the harvest was bad...
Why, Dad!!

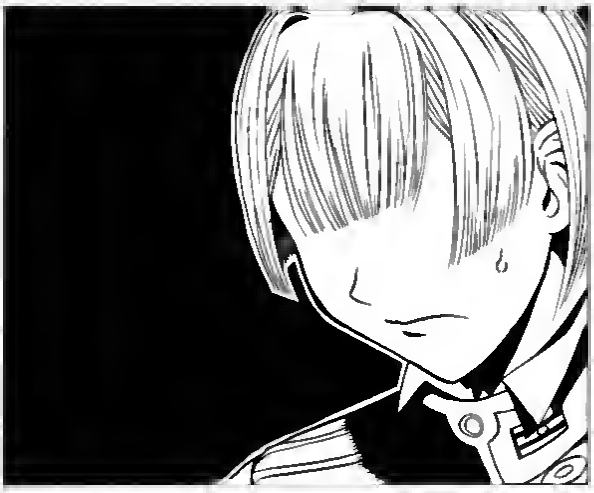
We were more than happy to work. We were offered enough mooey for the villege to survive for a year.
We were asked to help with the restoretion.
Sounds familiar, eh?
The tunnel collapsed during battle.

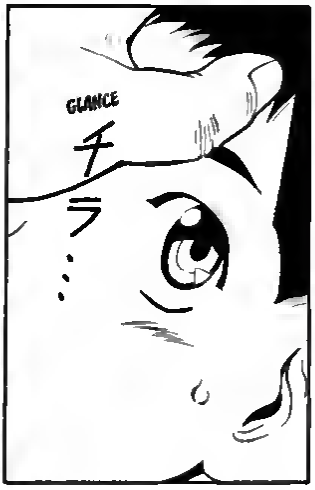
...got paid.
...we never...
Once the construction was completed...

As a result, our labor was our payment to the Empire for not enlisting.
The contract was rigged. We weren't drafted into war.


Instead of bullet wounds, they died of starvation and disease.
Twelve people died in the village that year.

...he's the only kid to survive that year.
You may not think that's a lot, but...



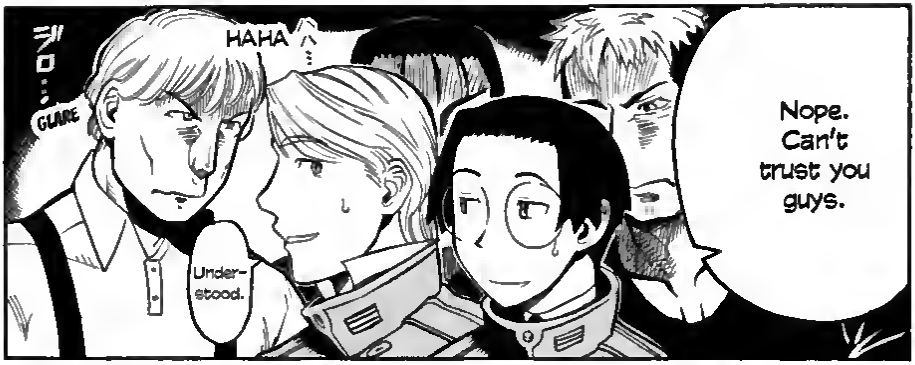

GLANCE
チラ…

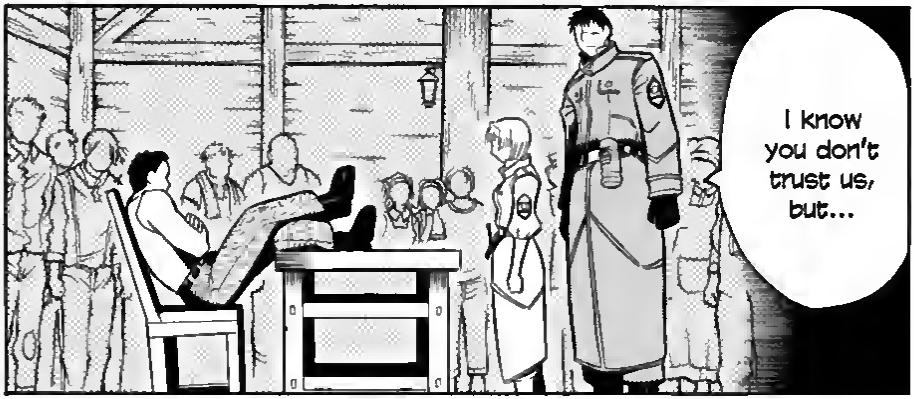
ダッ
DASH

We're not gonna work for free again.
The tunnel collapsed again during the cease-fire.

When will we get paid?
About a month after completion.

When?
What?
You don't have to worry. The contract states the provisions for the laborers, and...

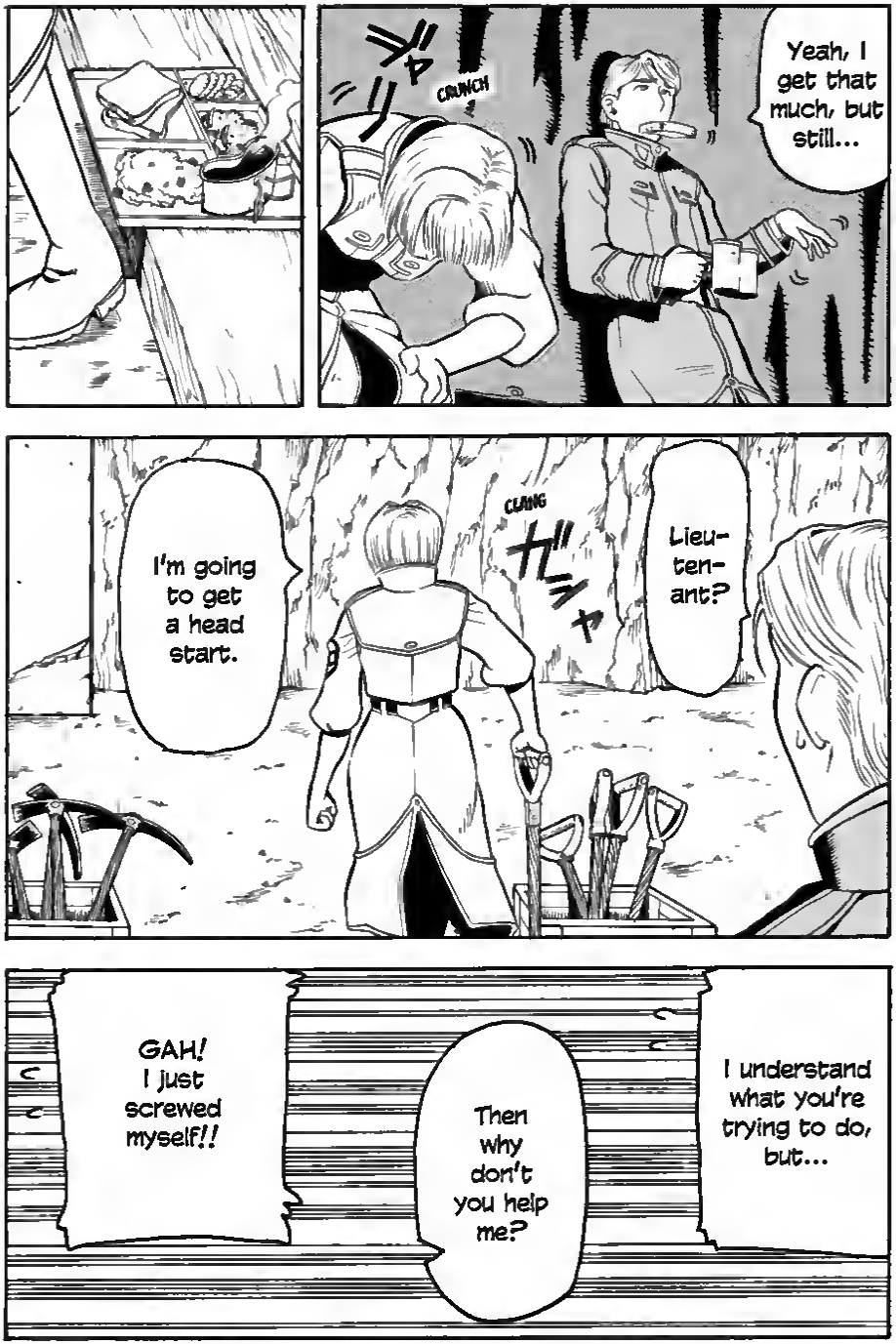

HAHA
GLARE
Under-stood.
Nope. Can't trust you guys.


I know you don't trust us, but...

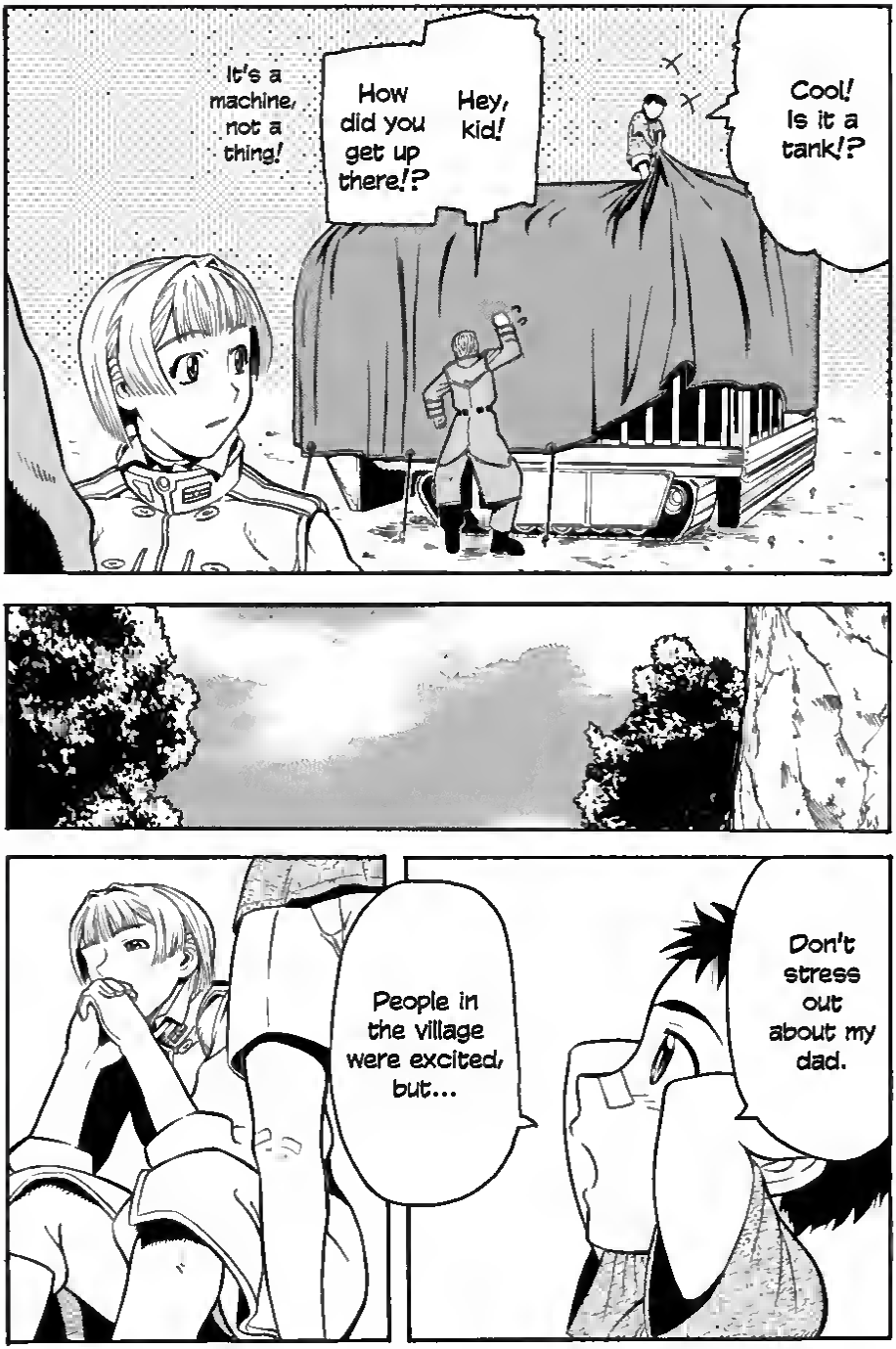
We'll be working with you.
We'll eat the same food and work the same hours.
We're all in this together.

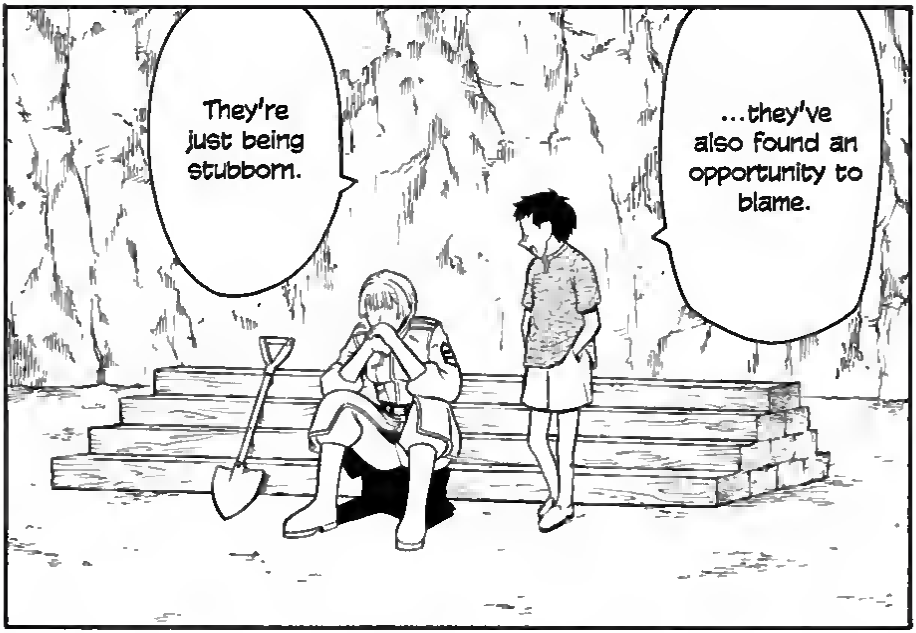
Go home.
I've made my decision.
CLATTER

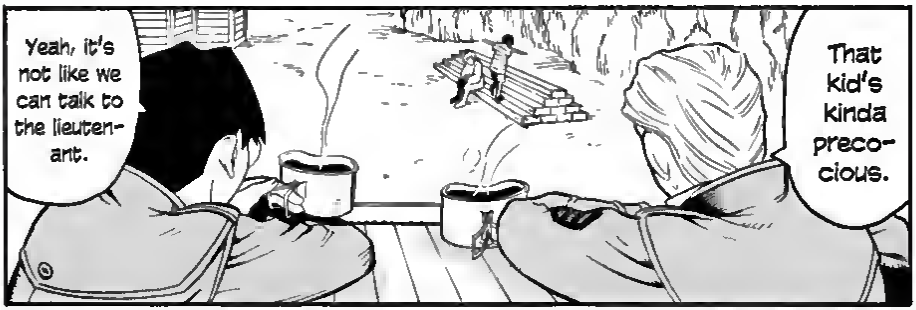
The construction work will also provide jobs...
The profit from the reconstruction will go back to the people.
The reconstruction of roads helps with the recovery of the Empire.
CHOMP CHOMP
Why do we have to help dig a tunnel?
Dammit

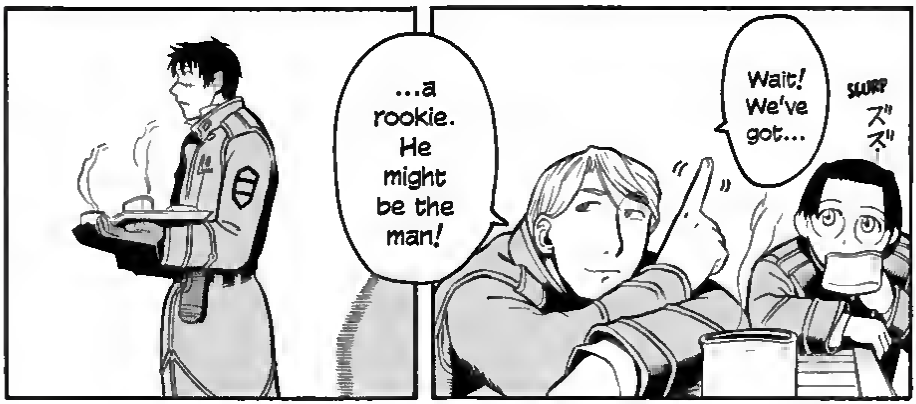

CRUNCH
Yeah, I get that much, but still...
CLANG
Lieu-ten-ant?
I'm going to get a head start.
I understand what you're trying to do, but...
Then why don't you help me?
GAH! I just screwed myself!!

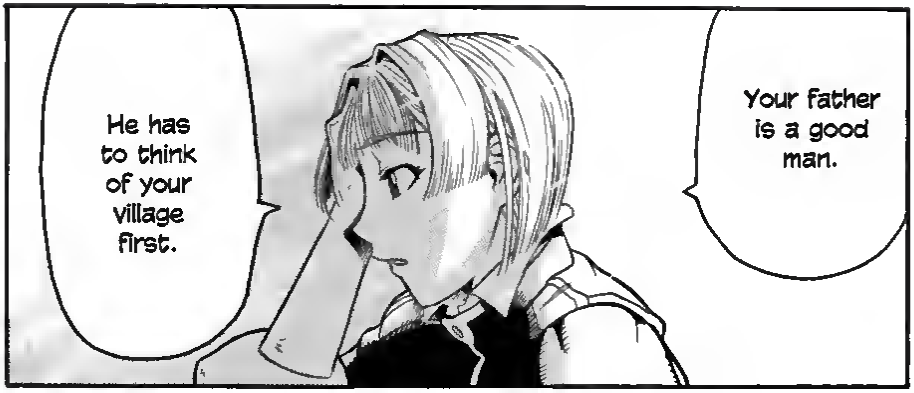
You should eat.
THUD
After what you heard,...
...how can you stand to eat?
What the heck is this thing!?
Lieu-tenant, I...
.....

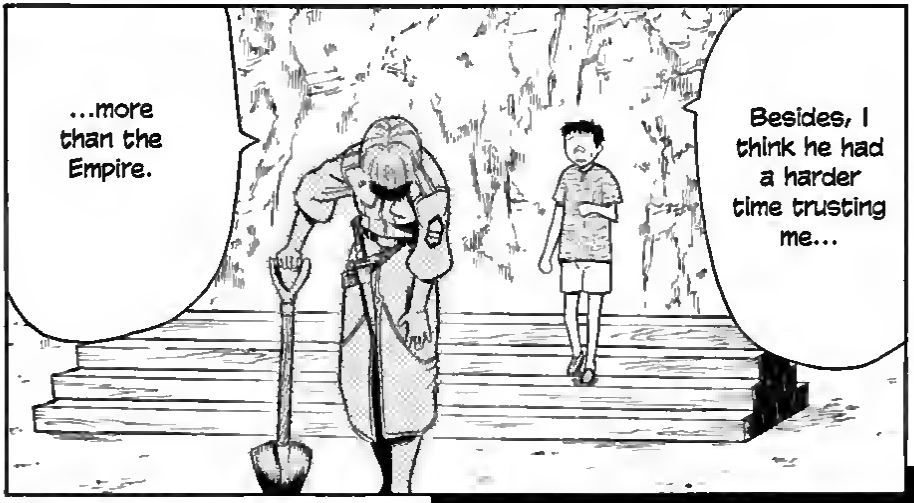

It's a machine, not a thing!
How did you get up there!?
Hey, kid!
Cool! Is it a tank!?
People in the village were excited, but...
Don't stress out about my dad.


They're just being stubborn.
...they've also found an opportunity to blame.


Yeah, it's not like we can talk to the lieutenant.
That kid's kinda precocious.

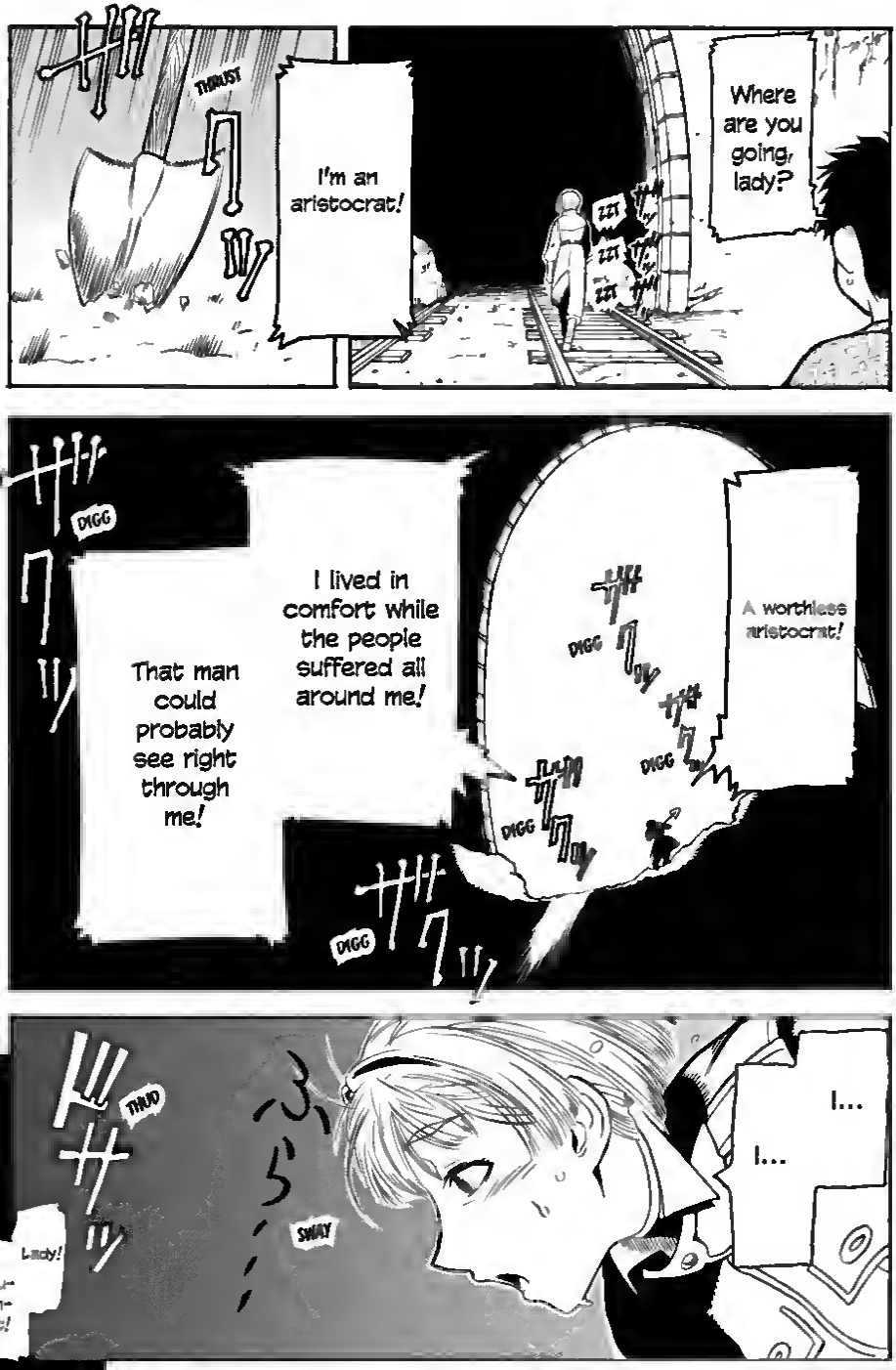

...a rookie. He might be the man!
Wait! We've got...
SLURP
ズズ


He has to think of your village first.
Your father is a good man.


...more than the Empire.
Besides, I think he had a harder time trusting me...

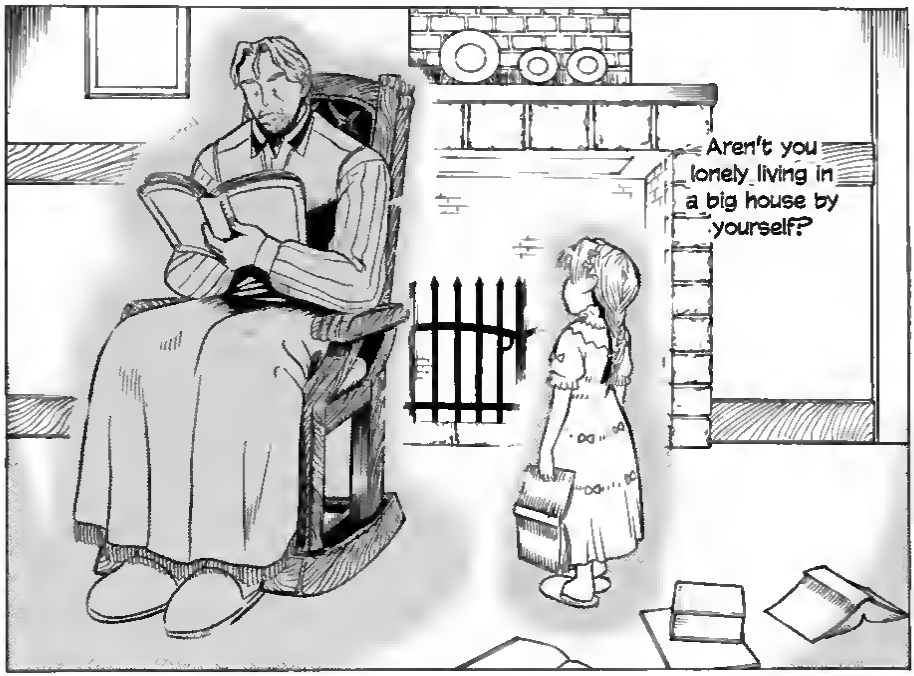
GRIND

Go home.


THRUST
I'm an aristocrat!
Where are you going, lady?
DIGG
That man could probably see right through me!
I lived in comfort while the people suffered all around me!
A worthless aristocrat!
DIGG
DIGG
DIGG
DIGG
THUD
SWAY
Lady!
Lieu-ten-ant!
I...
I...

Grandfather!

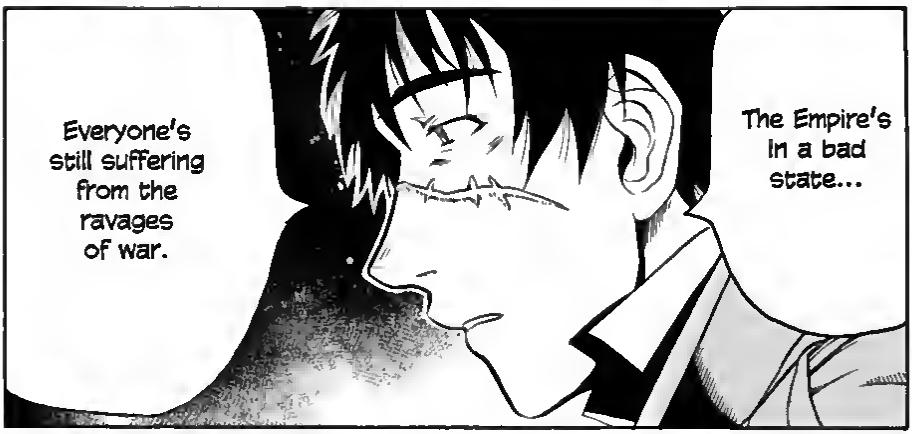
Grandfather!

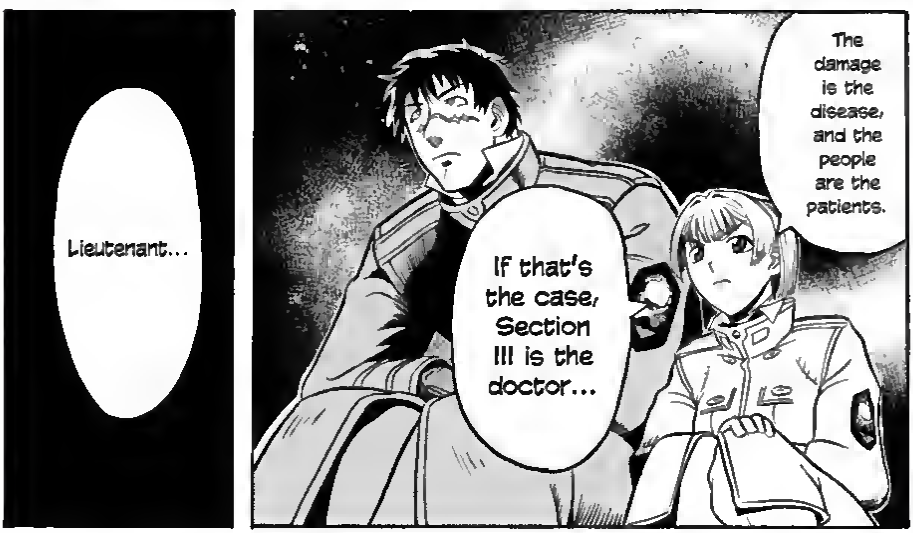


There is something very lonely about...
...being a nobleman.
UNH...
TUG

STING
NOD
What was that for?
I couldn't help it.
SLAP
I fell asleep?
This is for you, Lieutenant.
That's what you get for starving yourself.
THRUST
CLATTER
CLATTER
Hey, wait! What are you... mmmffftt!
I don't want any!
STARE
You can't make me change my mind!

Thanks...
STING
STING
RUB RUB
PANT!
(?)
PANT!
Fine, I'll eat.


Everyone's still suffering from the ravages of war.
The Empire's in a bad state...


Lieutenant...
If that's the case, Section III is the doctor...
The damage is the disease, and the people are the patients.

Do you think patients want doctors...
...to be sick along with them?

They just want one thing...
I don't think they want to be friends, either.
I don't think they want us to understand their pain or worries.

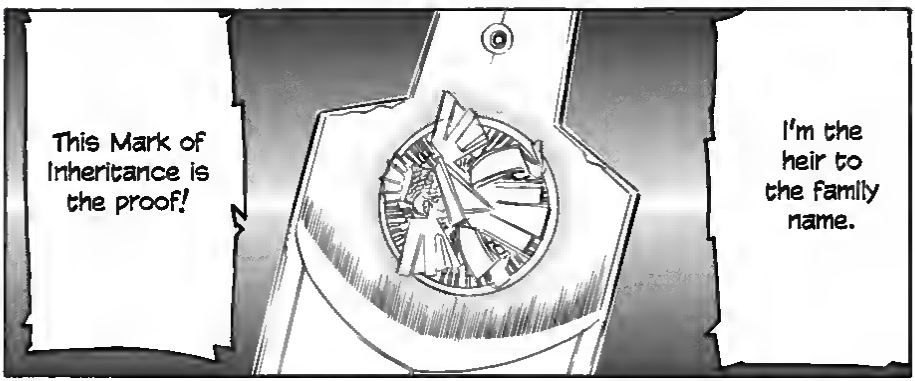
That's it.
...to be made well again.

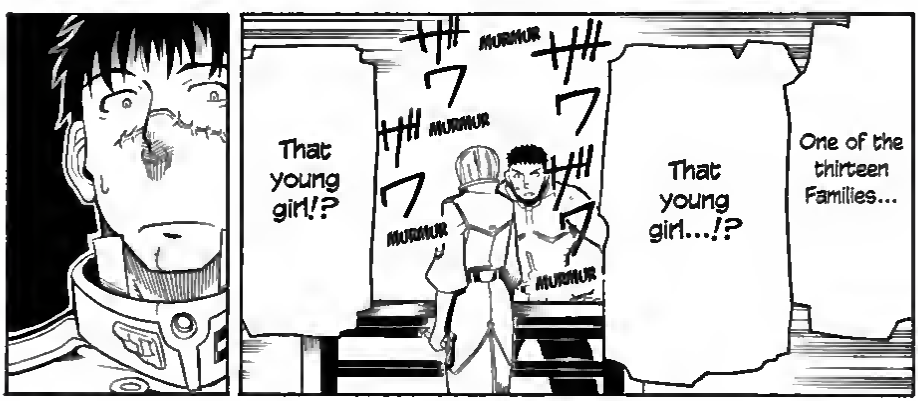
.....

...kind of depressing...
It's...

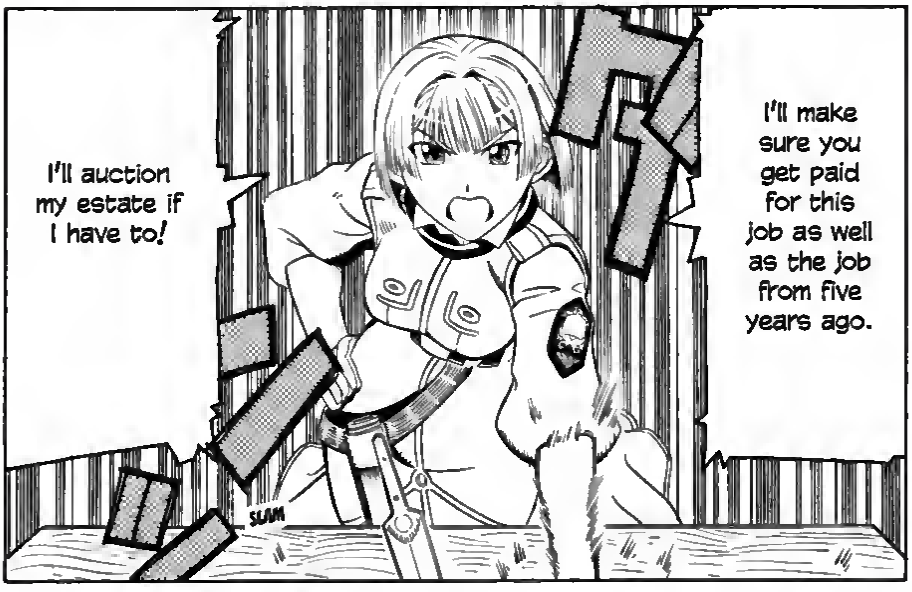
I told you to go home!
SLAM
You're trolling for workers early in the morning!?
TWEET TWEET
CHIRP
STOMP
CREAK
The handle resembles a military sword, but...
CLICK
HEH
Showing your true colors, eh...
You're gonna use force if you don't get your way?

...bestowed upon the Malvin Family, one of the thirteen Appointed Families!
CLANG
Behold! This is the imperial seal that was...


This Mark of Inheritance is the proof!
I'm the heir to the family name.


That young girl!?
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR
That young girl...!?
One of the thirteen Families...

I swear on the Mark of Inheritance.
I don't care how powerful you are!


I'll auction my estate if I have to!
I'll make sure you get paid for this job as well as the job from five years ago.
SLAM

Gotta show off what you got, eh?

Well...
I think I trust you now...
...more than I did yesterday.
We
SIGH
フーッ
.....
Really?
SHAKE SHAKE
フルフル
We've got an emergency!
SLAM
Lieutenant!

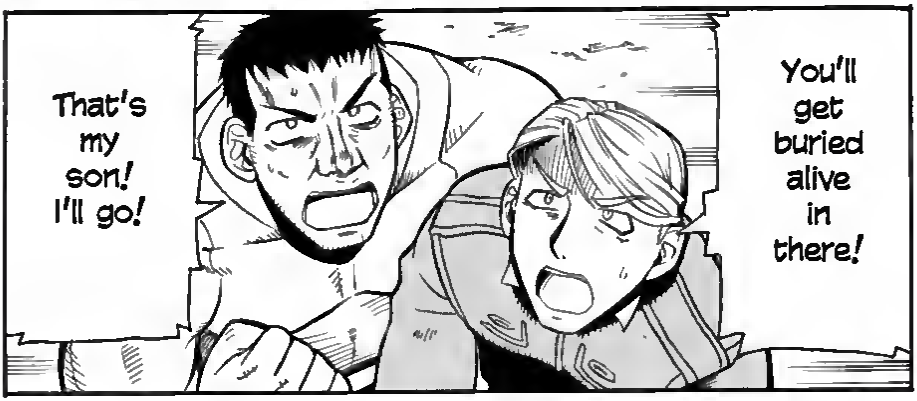
ZAAAA
GA
GA
GA
GA
GA
ZAAAA
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE

Why didn't you stop him!?
PANT!
PANT!
PANT!
We were napping...

The kid's in the tunnel with the digger?
THUD
THUD
CRUMBLE
WAAAAAAHHHH
GA
GA
GA

CRACKKKK
ビリビリ
ビリビリ
CRACKKKK
ビリビリ
ビリビリ
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
It was too late by the time we heard the noise.
The entrance...
PAN!
PAN!
PAN!
PAN!
GA
Huh!?
The tunnel is caving in from the vibrations...
This noise...
That's my kid in there!!!
ビリビリビリ
CRACKKKK
He was asking all kinds of questions yesterday about the machine.
I never imagined...

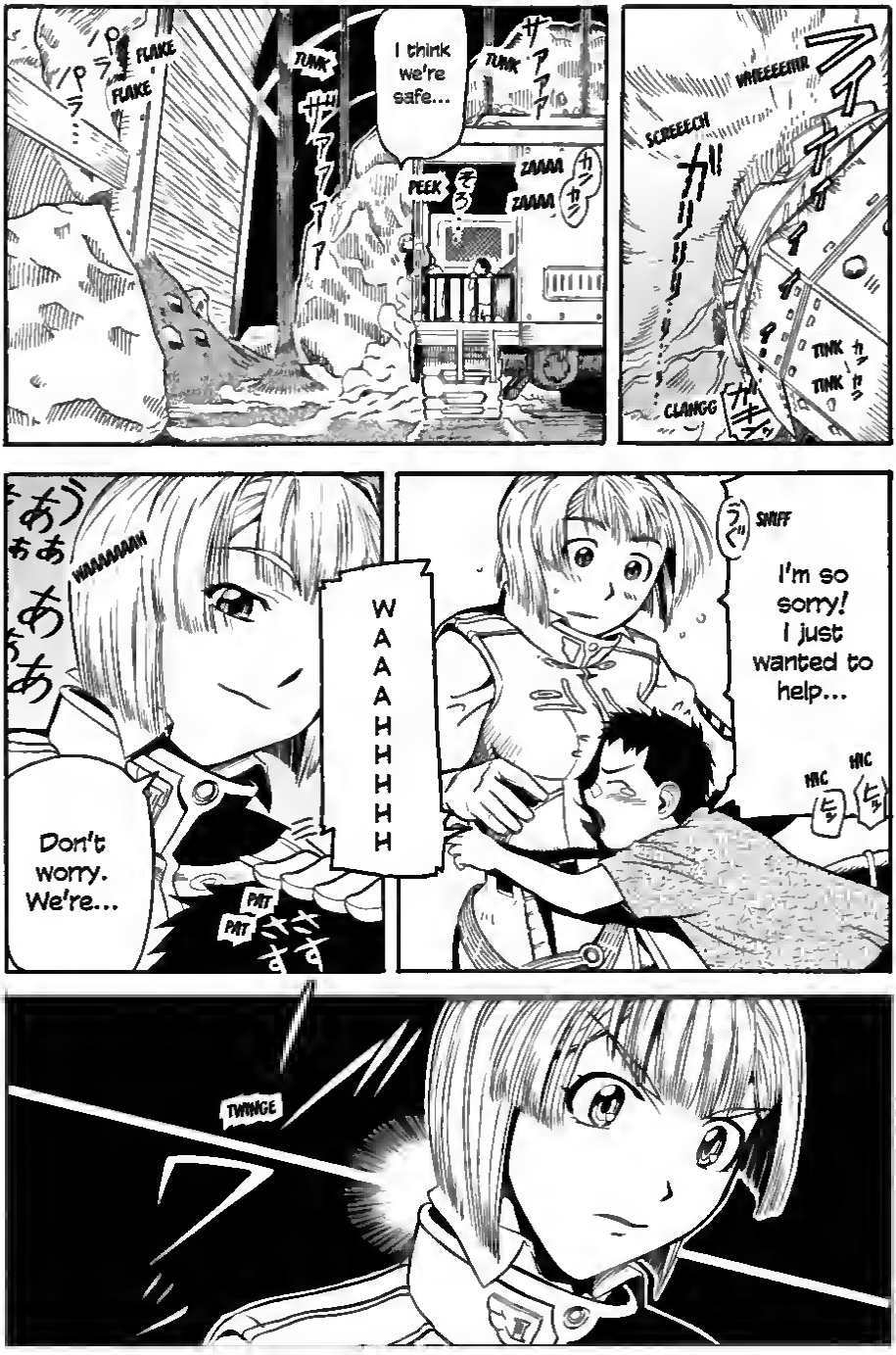
What are you doing, Lieutenant?
I found an opening.
I'm going to go in and stop the machine.
GRUMBLE


You'll get buried alive in there!
That's my son! I'll go!

Shush! We're Pumpkin Scissors, Imperial Army State Section III!
This is my job and obligation!

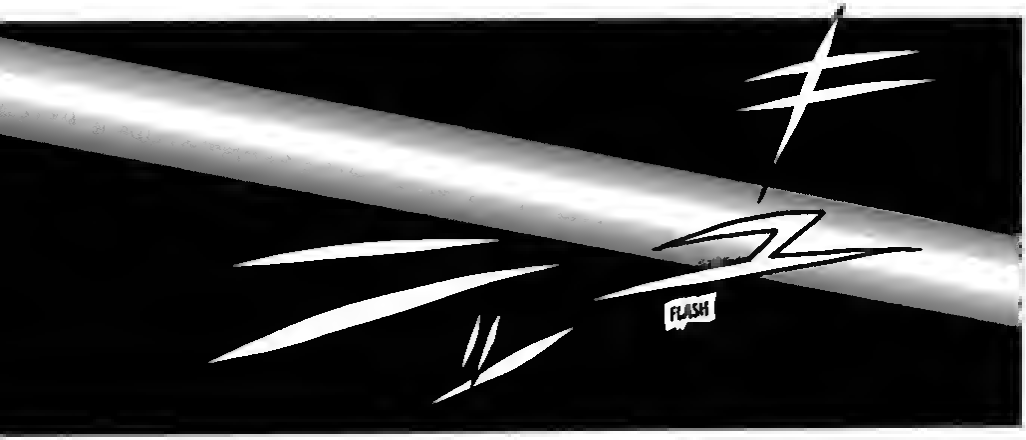
PAT
ポン
She's a noble-woman?
Crazy broad...
She's pissed...
I'll protect her.
Thanks!
Big guy!
PANT!
PANT!
PANT!

GA
GA
GA
I can't move!
I-I-I...
SHAKE
SHAKE
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
Hurry, shut off the engine! The tunnel's gonna cave in!
Are you all right?
ZAAAA
GA
GA
GA
It's you!!
ZAAAA
CLENCH
GLARE
SQUEEZE
ZAAAA
SMACK
TUG
KOFF
ざばっ
LEAPP


FLAKE
FLAKE
パラ…
TUNK
ザアアア
I think we're safe...
TUNK
ザアアア
PEEK
そろ
ZAAAA
ZAAAA
カニカニ
WHEEEEEEE
SCREEEECH
ガリリリリ…
TINK
TINK
CLANGG
ガキーン
WAAAAAAH
WAAAAHHHHH
Don't worry. We're...
PAT
PAT
さすさす
SNIFF
I'm so sorry! I just wanted to help...
HIC
HIC
TWINGE

SLAMMMM
SNAP
CRACK
JOLT
SLIDE

Run!
SHOVE
ドン

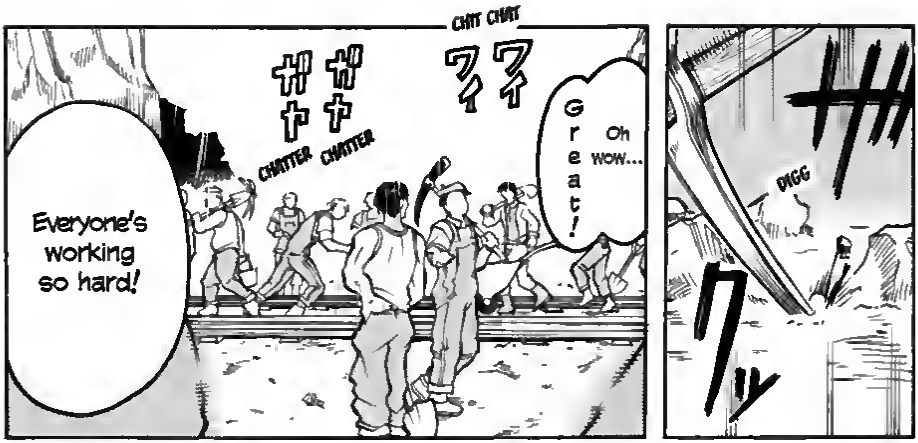

FLASH

SPLIT
!?

BEAMM
A blue...
... light?

SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
THUDDDD

Are you all right?
It's him...
FSHWOO
Yeah...
CREA-K-K-K
We're all right!
CREA-K-K-K


CHIT CHAT
CHATTER
CHATTER
Everyone's working so hard!
Great!
Oh wow...
DIGG

What happened!?
I heard you were napping.
What?
This all happened because we weren't at our post...
Well, the accident proved that the lieutenant's intentions were sincere...

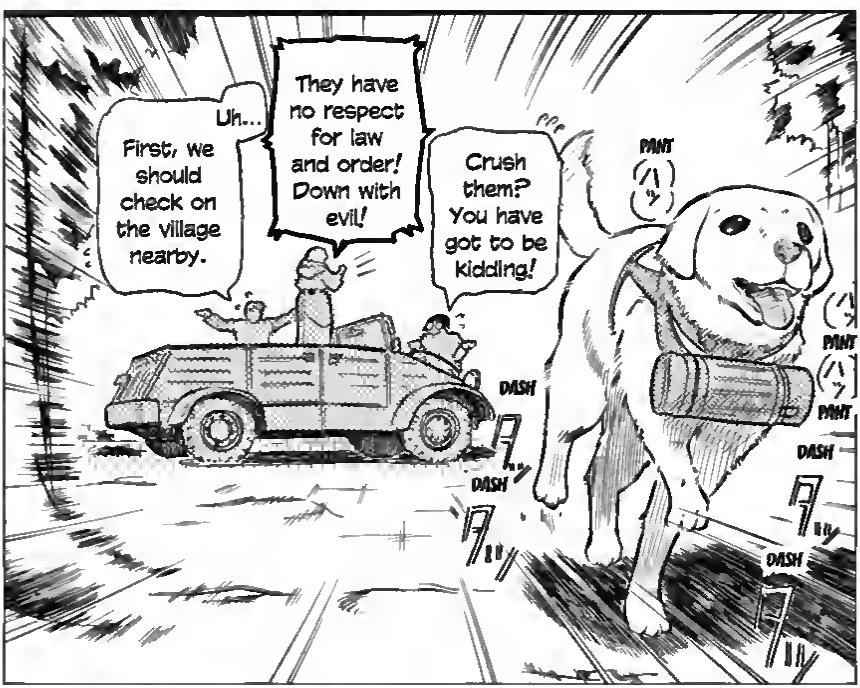
This is all my fault...
No wonder...
GLOOMY
Don't tell the lieutenant.
We were taking a piss.
SHHHH

The three of you!
JOLT
Get moving!
CHATTER CHATTER
CHAT CHAT
...while we're stationed here for the week!
We're working alongside the men...
But...
Working won't get in the way of that!
I think it'll be best to take on a supervisory role...

See You Next Time!

Translation Notes

Joponese is o tricky longuoge for most Westerners, ond tronslotion is often more on ort thon o science. For your edificotion ond reoding pleosure, here ore notes on some of the ploces where we could have gone in o different direction, or where o Japanese cultural reference is used.



Down with evil!, page 13

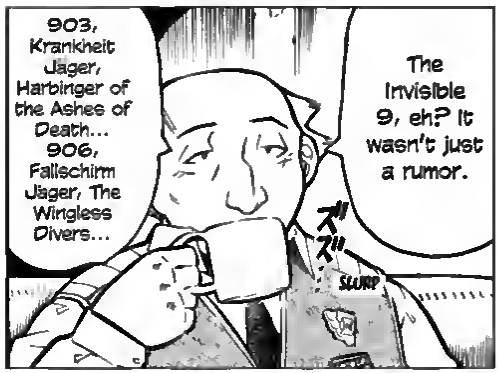
The literol tronslotion of the phrose is more olong the lines of "Kill evil instantly." The Japanese is *aku zaku kan.* It was o motto thot soldiers used in Jopon during the Meiji Revolution.

KRANKHEIT JÄGER, PAGE 36

The German *Krankheit Jäger* translates into "Disease Hunter." They are described as "Sawers of the Ash of Death," which we've translated as "Harbingers of the Ashes of Death."

FALLSCHIRM JÄGER, PAGE 38

Fallschirm Jäger translates into "Parachute Hunter." They are described as "The Wingless Divers."


903, Krankheit Jäger, Harbinger of the Ashes of Death...
906, Fallschirm Jäger, The Wingless Divers...
The invisible 9, eh? It wasn't just a rumor.
SLURP

WILL-O'-THE-WISP, PAGE 51

Will-o'-the-wisp is the common nome for mysterious lights thot flicker neor morshes ond bogs. It is olso known os *ignis fatuus*, or in plurol form os *ignes fatui* ("fool's fire[s]"). It looks like o flickering lomp ond is sometimes soid to recede if opprooched. As o result, folklore tolks of the will-o'-the-wisp os ghostly lights thot leod trovelers owoy from well-troveled poths ond into dongerous bogs.

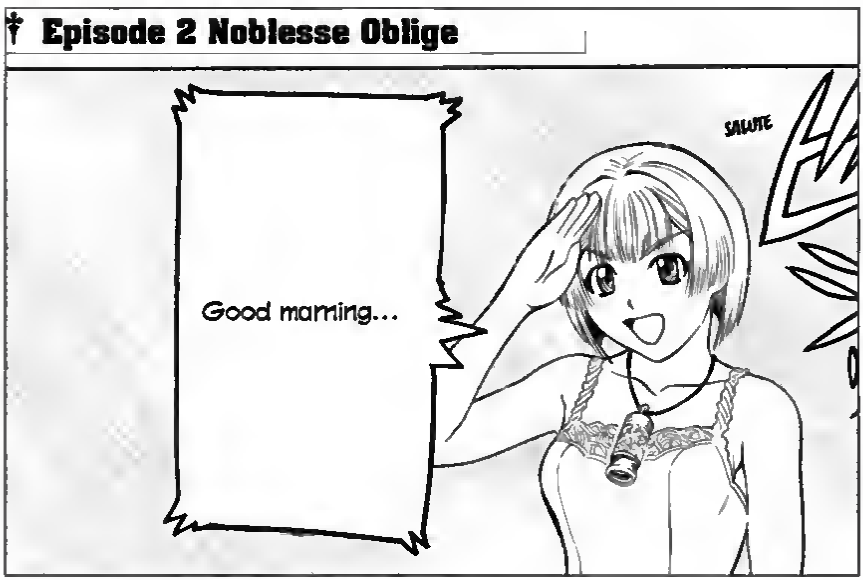
Will-o'-the-wisp is olso known os Jock-o'-Lontern (Jock of the Lontern), corpse condles, ond hobby lonterns. In Joponese, will-o'-the-wisp is colled *anibi*.

GESPENSTER JÄGER, PAGE 59

Gespenster Jäger tronslotes into "Ghost Hunter" from the Germon. They ore described os "Soldiers Ignoront of Deoth," which hos been tronsloted to "Deoth Morch Troopers."

Sneezing, page 97

In Japan, it is said that sneezing is a sign that someone is talking about you. When Oreldo is talking about Stecchin, she is shown sneezing in the other room.



Noblesse Oblige, page 154

The phrase is French in origin. *Nablesse* means nobility, *oblige* is the third-person singular present tense of *obliger*, which means "to obligate." The first recorded use is in *Le Lys dans la vallée*, a novel by Honoré de Balzac. "Noblesse oblige" is used to imply that social responsibility falls on those who have wealth, prestige, and power.